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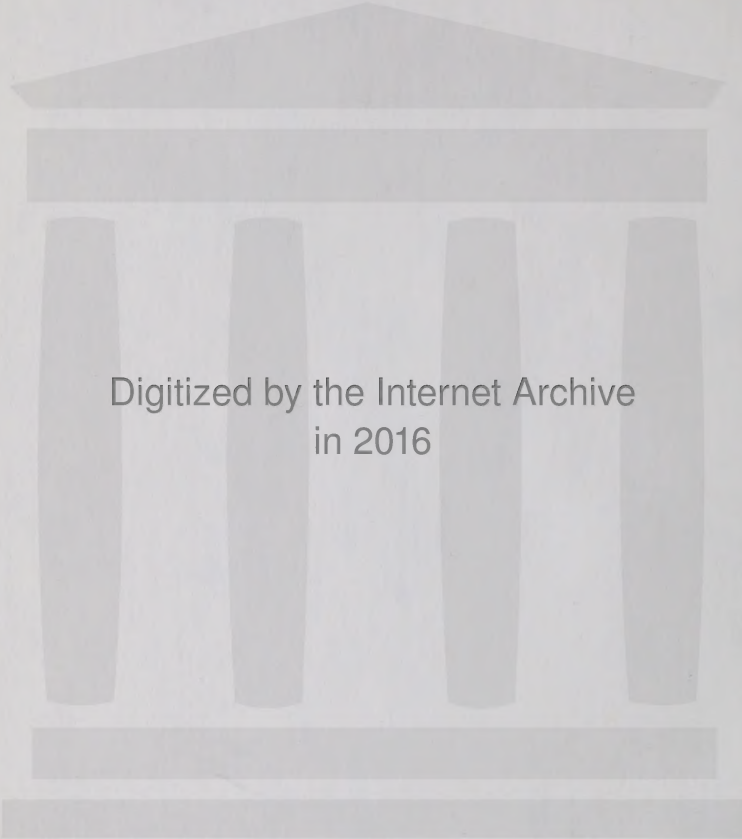
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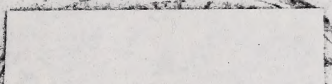
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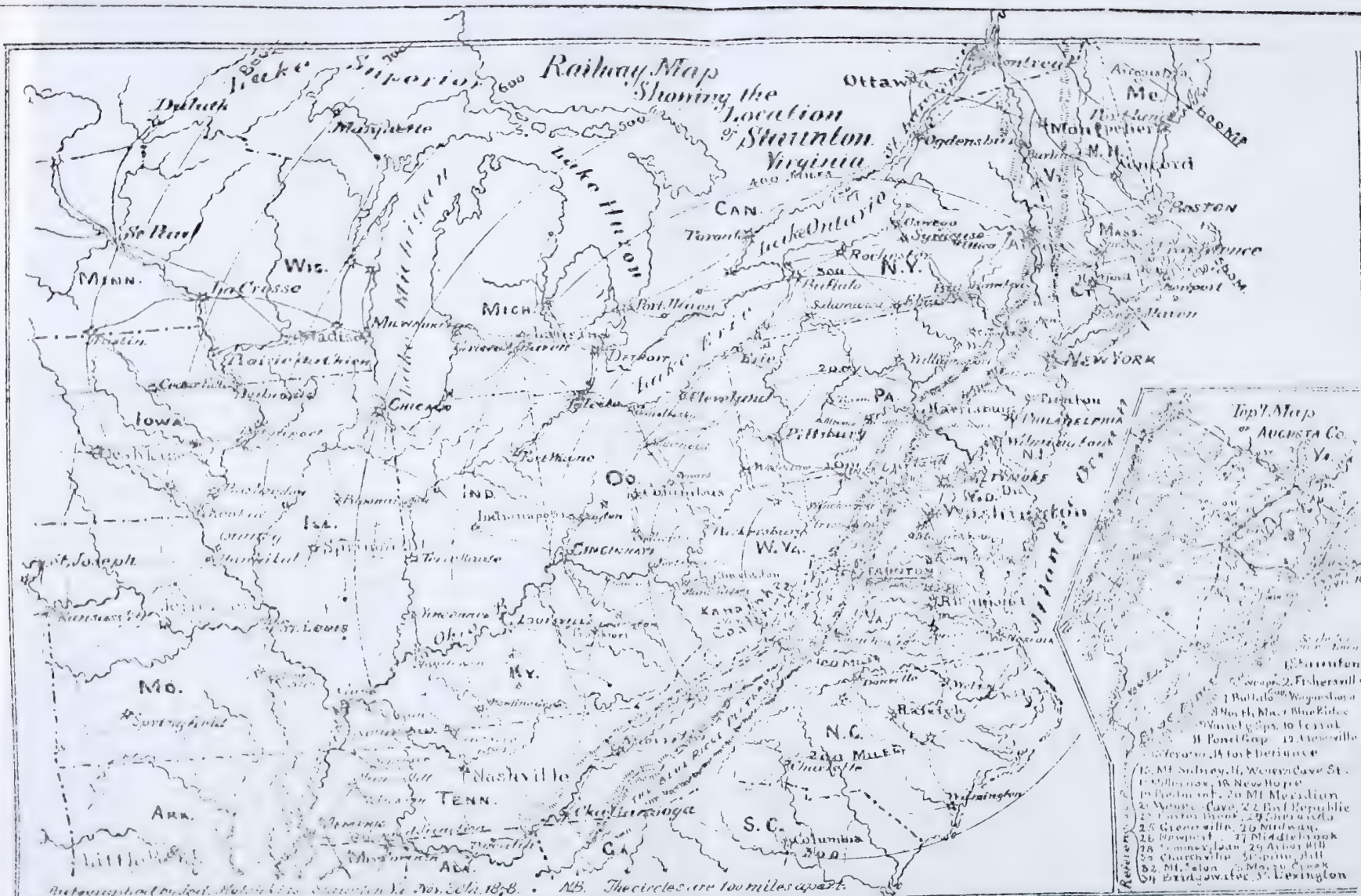
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Western Lunatic Asylum.—p. 30.

ERRATA.—Page 6, City Supt. of Schools is appointed by State Board of Education, with approval of Senate: P. 13, For time of wheat harvest, read June 15th to July 1st. P. 32, Read, in some copies, \$11,000 instead of \$1,400 for license and bank tax. P. 42, third line, for tanning, read tannin. P. 46, second line, separate *fire* and *plastic*. P. 47, third line, for stone works, read stove-works: seventh line, insert Clymer; twelfth line, for Scuykill, read Schuylkill; and sixth line from bottom, for malirious, read malarious.



Railway Map **Showing the** **Location** **of Staunton,** **Virginia**

- Top. Map**
of AUGUSTA Co.
Va.
- 1. Staunton
 - 2. Fishersville
 - 3. Rockwell
 - 4. New Hope
 - 5. New River
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 - 100. New River

Not to scale. Not to be used for navigation. NB. The circles are 100 miles apart.

THE CITY OF
Staunton,

AUGUSTA COUNTY,

Virginia,

AND THE

SURROUNDING COUNTRY,

Their Condition, Resources and Advantages,

AND

*The Inducements they offer to those Seeking Homes
or Places for Business, Investments, &c.*

By Jed. Hotchkiss, Consulting Engineer,

NO. 346 EAST MAIN STREET,

AUTHOR OF THE "STATE SUMMARY OF VIRGINIA," "A PREPARATORY"
AND "A COMPLETE GEOGRAPHY OF VIRGINIA," ETC.

OCTOBER, 1878.

—STAUNTON, VA.—

SPECTATOR STEAM PRINTING-HOUSE.

D. E. STRASBURG, BOOK & JOB PRINTER.

F 86384.417

THE SHENANDOAH VALLEY.

The opinions of Washington and Burritt.

"The western parts of Virginia, more especially above the Blue Mountains, in my opinion will be considered, if not considered so already, as the garden of America; forasmuch as it lies between the two extremes of heat and cold, partaking in a degree of the advantages of both, without feeling much the inconveniences of either, and, with truth it may be said, is among the most fertile lands in America east of the Apalachian Mountains."—George Washington to Sir John Sinclair, 1796.

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"The lands in what is called The Valley, that is, lying between the North Mountain and the Blue Mountain, are the richest lands we have."—George Washington, 1796.

"Two great ranges of mountains run somewhat diagonally through Virginia,—the Blue Ridge and the Alleghanies proper. Between these is the Shenandoah Valley, one of the most beautiful, fertile and delightful regions on the American continent."—Elihu Burritt, of Massachusetts, 1870.

The New York Tribune, April, 1878, in an editorial, urges Virginia as a place for settlement in these words.—"*Her nearness to the markets, her ample means of transportation, her abundant power in water and fuel for manufacturing purposes, and the cheapness of labor, commend her to the man who has means to invest. It only needs money to develop her vast mineral resources.*" * "*The unemployed laborer or mechanic is, it is true, a man without money. But we still urge the Virginias and Carolinas upon his consideration in choosing a future home, for two reasons: 1st. He risks little in removal. The journey is short. The climate, habits of life, etc., are much the same as those with which he is familiar, except that the necessaries of life being cheaper want is almost unknown. If he fails absolutely, a few hours will bring him back to his present standing ground, whereas the emigrant to the West, by sheer distance, burns his ship behind him.*" * "*2nd. He can afford to risk so little that he ought to go where the risk is smallest. In the Virginias, where climate is equable and population of mixed occupation, the profits are, it is true, but moderate, but the risk of absolute failure is nothing; while the West is the land of great extremes. This year the crops may be enormous, even be thrown to the cattle for lack of transportation to the market, and the next a drought or plague of grasshoppers may breed a famine,—the people, all being engaged in farming are unable to help each other.*"



City Hall.—Staunton.

STAUNTON, the energetic and flourishing little "city of the hills," of the famous Valley of the Shenandoah, the county seat of the large and wealthy county of Augusta, satisfied that if the advantages of her location, in the midst of a wide, fertile, highly productive and picturesque region, abounding in undeveloped resources of many kinds, in the older settled portions of the country and but a few hours from the great cities and markets of the Atlantic sea-board, in a remarkably genial and salubrious climate, having an active, industrious, intelligent and sociable, but not crowded population, where the best of educational institutions

abound, flourishing churches are plentiful, and good homes, good lands and good living are cheap, were generally known, that there are thousands of people in less favored sections that would come and make their homes here, where they can live more cheaply, comfortably and better, and enjoy better health than they now do, or where they can improve their substance by cultivating a generous soil or by joining in the large manufacturing and trade incident to the development of great resources, takes this method of communicating information concerning these matters, and of inviting those seeking homes, where to educate their children, where to engage in manufacturing or trade, or to invest capital to advantage, not only to read the following statements but to come and see for themselves if these things are not so;—She desires to increase her population and wealth, develop her resources and those of her tributary country, enlarge her industries and duplicate herself in the coming as she has in the past ten years, and she will welcome to her citizenship all good and substantial people having means, muscles, or minds at command that will contribute to these ends.

The location of Staunton is in latitude $38^{\circ} 09'$ north, and longitude $79^{\circ} 04' 12''$ west from Greenwich. The altitude or height above the sea level of different portions of the city varies from 1,300 to 1,600 feet, making its average altitude 1,450 feet, and giving it the temperature of about 43° north, that of the latitude of Boston, Albany, Rochester, Buffalo and Chicago, but not their general climate, as stated hereafter (p. 9).

Its situation is near the middle of an elevated, plateau-like, limestone valley, here some 25 miles wide, sloping not far from 25 feet to the mile, rapidly enough to secure the best of drainage, to the northeast and to the southeast, between continuous mountain chains, the Blue Ridge on the southeast and the Kitatinny or North mountains on the northwest. This valley, that of the catchment-basin of the Shenandoah, is part of the great connected belt of Silurian limestone valleys that extends for 1,500 miles from the mouth of the Saint Lawrence through Canada, Vermont, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, the Virginias, Tennessee and Georgia into Alabama, forming not only the most beautiful, fertile, populous and everyway desirable portions of the states it crosses, but of the whole United States, the "garden of America," as Washington,—who knew it well as the boy surveyor of the lands of the Shenandoah and the commander of the forces that guarded its early settlement,—called it.

The general surface of the country at and around this city is that of a rolling plain varied by stream-valleys and rounded hills and low ridges, but everywhere open and commanding wide stretches of charmingly picturesque valley landscapes bounded by distant mountain chains bold in relief and beautiful in outline and color. Many of the residences of Staunton overlook these pleasant features and some of them command fifty miles or more of the length of the wide valley and its bordering mountains.

When first visited by white men, in 1716, the whole 5,000 square miles of this Great Valley of Virginia was a prairie-like country covered by nutritious grasses on which pastured herds of deer, elk and buffalo; now, noble park-like forests, largely composed of several species of oaks and other hard wood trees with some pines, occupy more than half the surface in detached areas, with their vigorous growth, while well fenced and tilled farms with good farm-houses, barns, etc., and thriving villages

occupy the remainder. Few regions so moderately populous can show as many attractive and desirable farms.

This is a natural grass region, the home of the rich blue-grass which clothes hills and valleys, luxuriating in the fat limestone soils and giving a fresh and inviting aspect to town and country, leading to the cultivation of yards with densely turfed slopes and terraces in the one and to extensive meadows and pastures in the other.

The commercial location of Staunton is excellent, midway between the Atlantic and the Ohio, 200 miles in air-line distance from each, and but 100 miles, direct, from tide on the James, the Rappahannock or the Potomac. Two great lines of railway cross here, at right angles, furnishing easy, rapid and frequent communication with all parts of the country; one, the *Chesapeake and Ohio Railway*, a northwest and southeast trunk line, extends from Richmond, the capital of Virginia, at the head of tide on the James, accessible to vessels drawing 15 feet of water, 137 miles from Staunton, 421 miles to the Ohio at Huntington whence steamboats run to Cincinnati, etc., and which will soon be extended to connections with the vast railway system of the west; by this there is communication, twice daily, to Richmond, Washington, Baltimore, and all points eastward and westward; the other, the *Valley Branch Railway* of the Baltimore and Ohio, is completed from here down the Valley and on to Baltimore, furnishing a second line to Washington, Baltimore, and east or west, and the completion of less than 100 miles to the southwest, already more than half done, will furnish a connection with the railway system of the southwest. By the Chesapeake and Ohio it is 6 hours from Staunton to Richmond, 7 hours to Washington, 9 to Baltimore, 12 to Philadelphia, 15 to New York, 13 to Huntington and 25 to Cincinnati; and by the same railway it is but 150 miles to the great Appalachian coal-field, with its many varieties of superior coals, which this line crosses for 100 miles.

The site of Staunton was occupied soon after the settlement of the Valley in consequence of its central position, numerous bold perennial springs, and excellent water-power. In 1738, when the county of Augusta was organized, embracing all the territory of Virginia from the Blue Ridge westward,—the region that is now the states of West Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, etc.,—this hamlet became its county seat and the capital of what is now a dozen great states of the Union. In 1748 it was laid off, with streets run-

ning north and south and east and west, (Main or Beverly in the latter direction), as a town. In 1871 the "town of Staunton" was granted a new charter as the "City of Staunton," and under that its present government was organized the same year and the city divided into Ward Number One, south, and Ward Number Two, north of Main street.

The government of Staunton is vested in a *Mayor* and a board of twelve *Council-men*, called the Council of the City of Staunton, elected, six from each ward, for two years, by the voters of the city, (the male citizens over 21 that have paid their capitation tax) at elections held on the fourth Thursday in May in every second year after 1870. The other municipal officers are, a *Treasurer*, elected on the fourth Thursday in May every third year after 1870, a *Clerk of the Court of Hustings* the same day every sixth year after 1870, and an *Attorney for the Commonwealth*, a *Sergeant*, a *Commissioner of the Revenue*, three *Justices of the Peace* for each ward and a *Constable* for the city, elected on the same fourth Thursday in May every second year after 1870.

The Mayor, in addition to the other duties of his office, exercises the power of a Justice of the Peace, and is paid, for all services, an annual salary of \$300. The Council, the legislative body of the city, presided over by one of its members that it selects as President, has, subject to the charter of the city and the general laws of the state, "control and management of the fiscal and municipal affairs of the city" and its property; with authority to establish, provide for, and regulate markets, houses of correction, poor-houses, public buildings, a fire department, water-works, gas-works, streets, grant or refuse licenses, etc., etc., and do other things necessary for the well ordering and management of the city; it cannot contract loans without the consent of three-fourths of the legal voters of the city, and providing a sinking fund for their payment. The council meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month, at the City Hall, for the transaction of business; its members serve without pay. The Court of Hustings of the city, a term of which is held each month, is presided over by a City Judge, elected by the General Assembly of Virginia for a term of eight years; the City Superintendent of Schools is elected by the same body.

The government of the city is not only faithfully but economically administered, as the statement of expenditures (p. 32) shows; the annual salaries paid are, mayor \$300, clerk of council \$300, clerk of court fees, city judge \$700, commonwealth's

attorney \$250 and fees, treasurer \$400 and a percentage on collections, sergeant \$150 and fees, commissioner of the revenue \$200 and fees, physician to the poor \$125, superintendent of city hands \$600, overseer of the poor \$100, chief of police \$600, three policemen at \$480 each and one at \$300.

The City Hall is a commodious and handsome structure, built of brick, with trimmings of native limestone and fire-brick, at a cost of nearly \$50,000, containing ample room for all the city offices, a large public hall 50 feet by 96, and the hall and library of the Young Men's Christian Association.

The cost of reaching Staunton, from almost any portion of the country, may be readily ascertained from the following rates for first class tickets, by railway, *from* this place to leading centres of population and trade, viz: to Richmond, Va., \$6, Norfolk, Va., \$9, Washington, D. C., \$7, Baltimore, Md., \$7.75 Philadelphia, Pa., \$11.15, New York, N. Y., \$14.20, Boston, Mass., \$20.95, Cincinnati, O., \$11, Chicago, Ill., \$18.75, St. Louis, Mo., \$22.25, Pittsburg, Pa., \$13.65. From nearly all these places and from many others in the country excursion tickets to Weyer's Cave, a famous grotto, in this county, or to some of the noted springs on the line of the Chesapeake & Ohio Railway, good for both ways and for several months, can be purchased for a moderate advance on the single fare, and so a visit can be paid to this section at small cost. The Chesapeake and Ohio Railway also sells tickets from its New York office, at reduced rates, to those desiring to examine the country along its line. Emigrant tickets, *from* Staunton, cost \$4.80 to Richmond, \$6.20 to Cincinnati, \$11.25 to Chicago, \$14.25 to St. Louis, and \$10 to Pittsburg. The local rates for first class passengers are four cents per mile, but tickets for 1,000 miles of travel can be bought at two, and two and a half cents per mile.

The kinds of business carried on here at this time may be gathered from the following list of its establishments, individual or company, viz: of trades, 3 bakers, 7 barbers, 5 blacksmiths, 1 book binder, 6 boot and shoe makers, 3 carriage and wagon manufacturers, 2 cigar and two tobacco manufacturers, 5 carpenters and builders, 4 tinnerns, sheet iron workers and copper-smiths, 4 dentists, 3 distillers, 1 flouring and 1 plaster and bone mill, 4 furniture makers and dealers, 2 gas fitters and plumbers, 1 gun- and 2 lock-smiths, 2 hair workers, 3 machine shops, 1 foundry, 1 marble yard, 2 mattress makers, 3 newspaper and

book and job printing houses, 3 house and sign painters, 2 paper hangers, 6 milliners, 3 photographers, 1 planing mill and ash and blind manufactory, 5 saddle and harness makers, 6 merchant tailors, 2 upholsterers and 4 watch-makers and jewelers; its dealers and traders are 3 in agricultural implements, 3 in books and stationery, 8 in boots, shoes, hats and caps, 3 in hardware, cutlery and builder's materials, 2 in china and glassware, 7 in clothing, 3 in coal and wood, 7 in produce and as wholesale grocers, 8 confectioners, 5 druggists, 12 in dry goods, 7 in flour feed and grain, 33 as retail grocers, 3 in leather, 3 in lumber, 7 as commission merchants, 3 in oysters, fish, game and vegetables, 7 in wines and liquors, 3 in wood and willow-ware; there are 2 banks, 1 band, 2 billiard saloons, 9 boarding houses, 2 bowling alleys, 2 express offices, 4 public halls, 3 hotels, 3 insurance offices, 26 lawyers and law firms, 11 physicians, 2 public libraries, 2 livery stables, 3 wagon yards, 2 real estate and 1 auctioneer offices, 9 restaurants and saloons, 6 seminaries and academies, 1 telegraph office, 1 architect, 3 civil engineers and surveyors, and 1 consulting engineer, etc., etc.

The retail prices of groceries at this time, Oct., 1878, reported by C. A. Richardson, grocer, are,—flour per barrel, superfine \$4, extra \$4.50, family \$5.50; bacon, per pound, hog round 10 to 11 cts., shoulders 10, sides 11, and hams 15; fresh beef or mutton, in market, 8 to 12 cts. per pound; lard 10 to 12 cts. per pound, and butter 20 to 22; eggs 16 to 17 cts. per doz.; tea from 50 cts. to \$1.30 per pound; salt \$1.50 per sack; corn meal 75 cts. per bush.; sugar, per lb., brown 8 to 10 cts., A. white 11 C. white 10, crushed and granulated 12 to 12½, and powdered 13; molasses 40 to 75 cts. and syrup 50 to 75 cts. per gal.; coffee, per lb, Rio 16 to 25 cts., LaGuayra 20 to 28, Java 30 to 35 and Mocha 40 to 45; potatoes, per bush., Irish 50 to 60 cts, sweet 90 to 100. Any of these bought in considerable quantities are sold for less.

Rents of course vary much, depending on location and value of property, but excellent dwellings, suitable for families of an average size, can be had for from \$100 to \$250 per annum, and the best at about one half more.

Fuel of the very best quality is cheap, wood, oak, hickory, &c., at from \$3. to \$3.50 per cord; anthracite coal from \$7. to \$7.50 per ton; semi-bituminous, the best domestic fuel known, from \$4.50 to \$5. per ton, and coke \$4. per ton. When as much as 10 tons are purchased at one time the soft coals cost \$4 25 per ton and anthracite \$6.75.

The Climate of Staunton and its vicinity is conceded to be one of the most agreeable and healthful in the whole country and one most admirably adapted to work of every kind, being equally remote from the extremes of heat and cold that characterize places in the northern and southern portions of the Union and sheltered by great mountain ranges from the storms that so often pass up and down the Atlantic coast on the one hand and the valley of the Mississippi on the other.

Its latitude, $38^{\circ} 9' N.$,—that of Louisville, St. Louis and San Francisco on the west, and southern Maryland on the east, in the United States; that of Lisbon, the southern end of Italy and Athens in Europe; and that of Smyrna and Yedo in Asia, —a *middle* one, would make its climate one of *means* in temperature, but rather too warm for a portion of the year, but here the element of elevation comes in as a modifying agency and its altitude of from 1,300 to 1,600 feet above the sea level reduces its temperature fully 5° of Fahrenheit.

The situation of Staunton has much to do with the noted salubrity of its climate; it is in the middle of an elevated plateau-like valley having a breadth of about 25 miles, sloping rapidly to the northeast and southeast, giving a decidedly eastern or morning-sun aspect to the country. High and continuous ranges bound this valley on each side, those on the southeast over 1,500, and those on the northeast over 2,500 feet higher than the valley, while on the southwest "the divide" across the valley, between the sources of the Shenandoah and the James, is some 500 feet more elevated than the average altitude of Staunton, about 1,400 feet.

Thus its summer temperature is moderated by its elevation and by the presence of higher surrounding mountains, so that excessive heat never continues for more than a few hours and the nights are always cool and invigorating; its winter temperatures are also moderated by these mountain chains, for they form an effectual barrier against the cold winds and storms that come from the northwest and the southeast. It is no uncommon thing, in the winter season, for the cars to come to Staunton, from east of the Blue Ridge or from west of the Great North or Kitatinny mountains, covered with snow when not a flake has been seen there.—Unless accompanied by very high winds, an unusual occurrence here, storms from the southeast or the northwest rarely reach this part of the Valley.

The Maximum, the Minimum and the Mean Temperatures, Fahrenheit, of Staunton, for each month and for the seasons

and years, for two years from the spring of 1869, inclusive, to that of 1871, are shown in the following table. The *highest* and the *lowest* indications of the thermometer during each month give the *extremes* of temperature, but the *means* of the seasons show the adaptations of the climate. The observation for the means were made at 7 A. M., 2 and 9 P. M. of each day.

		1869-'70			1870-'71		
Time.		Maximum.	Minimum.	Mean.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Mean.
Spring	March	67	14	40.7	60	19	39.1
	April	79	29	51.8	80	34	52.7
	May	84	39	60.5	81	49	62.7
Spring means,				51.0			51.5
Summer	June	90	58	72.2	89	56	71.8
	July	93	60	75.8	89	64	75.1
	August	92	58	75.0	87	61	72.4
Summer means,				74.3			73.1
Autumn	Sept'r.	82	44	64.1	78	47	64.3
	Oct'r.	69	30	48.1	73	39	55.0
	Nov'r.	63	28	40.2	66	29	44.9
Autumn means,				50.8			54.7
Winter	Dec'r.	56	21	37.4	60	5	32.3
	Jan.	66	18	41.5	60	21	35.7
	Feb.	57	11	36.1	69	10	39.2
Winter means,				38.3			35.7

These spring and summer means were nearly the same as those of Johnstown, on the Eastern Shore peninsula of Virginia, and near the sea, for the same periods, but those of the autumn and winter are considerably lower. The mean temperatures of the Natural Grand Divisions of Virginia for the year 1870-'71, were,—in Tidewater 58°, in Midland 56°, in Piedmont 54° and in the Valley, taking Staunton as the average 53.7°, decreasing with the increase of altitude.

The isotherm, or line of mean annual temperature of 52°,—according to the Statistical Atlas recently issued by order of Congress,—enters the United States, from the Atlantic, about midway of New Jersey, south of the latitude of New York, then runs by way of Trenton westward to Harrisburg, Pa., then turns southwestwardly through the Cumberland valley of Pa. and Md., and the Shenandoah Valley to Staunton, where it turns southward along the eastern foot of the Blue Ridge into Georgia; it then comes back, northward, through the valley of East Tennessee, thence along and west of the Appalachians to the central portions of West Virginia where it again turns to the westward and passes through the central portions of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, etc. All places on or near this line have the same average annual temperature. — This zone of 52° to 56° may justly claim to be the most highly favored in the United States for its general adaptation to all the wants of man in a temperate climate; it is the one in which the grasses and grains of the cool-temperate mingle with the grains, fruits and other products of the warm-temperate regions.

The average temperatures for January and July are considered by meteorologists the representative ones for determining the character of the climate, so far as cold and heat are concerned, for any given locality. The following table of January and July averages tells its own story, and furnishes the data for judging of the fitness of localities for residential or business purposes, from the known climatic condition of the places selected for comparison.

Table of Average Winter and Summer Temperatures of various Places as determined by the Averages of January and July—

In North America.	Jan.	July.	In North America.	Jan.	July.	In Europe and Asia.	Jan.	July.
STAUNTON, VA.	41°	75°	New Orleans, La.	54	80	Edinburgh	36°	58°
Lynchburg, "	44	78	Charleston, S. C.	48	80	London	37	65
Hampton, "	45	81	New York, N.Y.	30	75	Paris	38	66
Wytheville, "	37	74	Boston, Mass.	25	72	Berlin	18	68
Washington, D.C.	34	78	Eastport, Me.	22	62	Vienna	29	71
St. Louis, Mo.	33	77	Fort Snelling,	13	73	Rome	46	76
St. Paul, Minn.	14	73	Montreal, Can.	15	73	Jerusalem	48	77
Cincinnati, O.	33	76	Bermudas	32	84	Melbourne	65	40

NOTE.—The averages of Virginia are from the Smithsonian Observations, those of other places from Guyot's Physical Geography. It is probable that the winter mean of the Virginia stations is somewhat too high, for it is not the average of a large number of years.

The Rain-fall is, next to temperature, the most important climatic element, for, heat, moisture, and a fertile soil given, abundant production may be guaranteed. A reasonable amount of moisture is also essential to any climate to make it comfortable and to furnish an unfailing supply of pure water, so necessary for health and manufacturing purposes. In this particular Staunton and its surrounding country are remarkably blest, enjoying the happy medium that comes from perennial rains, well distributed throughout the year, and rarely excessive in quantity, while any excess is speedily removed in consequence of the rapid drainage that comes from its elevation.

Observations, recorded for a series of years, justify the seemingly paradoxical statement that the air of this region is always wonderfully pure and dry, so much so as to make it a very desirable one for asthmatics and others with delicate lungs, while it is rare that rains are not plentiful and water abundant; — the following facts of location render a satisfactory explanation of this seeming contradiction. The highest chain of the Appalachian system of mountains is in sight of Staunton, from 15 to 20 miles distant, to the northwest; this ranges with and between the Atlantic on the east and the Mississippi valley and the Great Lakes on the west, consequently a high barometer over the Virginian Sea, a common occurrence, and a low one over the Great Lakes sends the water-laden clouds westward until they meet this elevated Kitatinny chain and are by it discharged of their waters¹ about the sources of the Shenandoah in Augusta and Rockingham, giving to that region and the belt of country between it and the Capes of Virginia the abundant annual precipitation of from 44 to 56 inches, the largest amount furnished to any portion of Virginia, — a quantity that would be some 32 gallons to every square foot of surface, or more than one and one-third barrels for every day in the year that might be gathered from a roof 20 by 25 feet. On the other hand, when the conditions are reversed, as they are for nearly half the time, and cool winds bring water-clouds from the north-west, the same mountains rob them on their other side and they pass over this region either as drying and bracing winds or winds bringing showers.

The following table shows, in inches, how the rainfall, for the same years for which the temperatures have been given, was distributed through the months, at Staunton:

1) See Hotchkiss' Geography of Va., p. 87.

Monthly Precipitation, Staunton, Va., 1869-'70, and 1870-'71—

Year.	Spring.			Summer.			Autumn.			Winter.		
	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	January.	February.
1869-'70.	5.06	1.71	4.07	1.40	1.70	0.65	3.84	3.14	1.06	5.13	3.40	2.30
1870-'71.	3.66	3.92	5.89	6.73	4.33	2.74	11.24	2.13	1.56	2.05	2.81	3.45

The above table, summarized by seasons, gives:—

Seasons etc.	1869-'70.	1870-'71.
Spring . . .	10.84	13.47
Summer . .	3.75	13.80
Autumn . .	8.04	14.93
Winter . . .	18.83	8.31
The Year . .	33.46	50.51

NOTE.—The amount of rainfall in Sept. 1870 was an unprecedented quantity, the result of a great down-pour over a limited area embracing the sources of the James and the Potomac.

These tables corroborate the statement that the rains are well distributed throughout the year, and in a manner exceedingly favorable for agricultural operations as here conducted. For example, the rains of December and January prepare the earth for the plowing of sod lands for corn or oats, work that is here largely done in February with its mild temperature and moderate rainfall. The rains of March moisten and mellow the ground for the oat-seeding and corn-planting that in this region, with its long growing season, may extend through April and May and even into June, but are generally completed early in May. The rainfall of May and early June starts the corn and perfects the growth of the wheat crop. The dryer weather of the latter part of June and the fore part of July thoroughly ripens the wheat and gives it the high character for soundness and maturity that imparts such value to Virginia flour in the markets of Brazil and other warm countries. The wheat harvest generally begins from the 1st to the 15th of June and is completed in about a month. The comparatively dry weather of July and August is favorable for threshing the wheat in the field,—it is extremely rare that the grain is ever injured by dampness. The rains of the latter part of August and of early September ripen the Indian corn which is usually cut and shocked or topped in September and thoroughly cured by the long Indian Summer that follows,—corn is shucked at the convenience of the farmer during the fall and winter, even to

March, taking no damage, but on the contrary being rather improved in quality by remaining in the shocks, if they have been well put up. The autumnal rains prepare the ground for the wheat plowing and seeding, which are done from mid August to December.

The Winds indicate the general character of any region for agreeableness by the directions from which they generally blow. Those of Staunton and the Valley are usually moderate in their velocity and such things as tornadoes are unknown. The maps of the "tracks of storm-centres," published by the United States Signal Service since 1871, show that these tracks rarely cross this region.

The following table, compiled from the observations made at the Deaf Dumb and Blind Institution, shows the directions *from which* the winds blew, at Staunton, for a year, commencing October 1, 1868. — This indicates that the prevailing winds are from the south quarters.

Wind from	Number of times at			
	7 A. M.	2 P. M.	9 P. M.	Total.
North	10	19	19	48
Northeast	21	31	23	75
East	8	14	15	37
Southeast	128	76	77	281
South	32	28	22	82
Southwest	63	92	83	238
West	11	24	21	56
Northwest	102	79	90	271

The Clearness of the Sky and, consequently, the cheerfulness of the atmosphere, may be judged of from the record of cloudiness, for the same year as the above for the winds, made at the same place. This shows that during that year, at Staunton, at 7 A. M. the sky was without clouds, that is perfectly clear, 91 times, entirely overcast 61 times and partially 204 times. At 2 P. M. it was entirely clear 60 times, entirely cloudy 63 times and partially cloudy 243 times. At 9 P. M. it was clear 167 times, all cloudy 51 times, and partially cloudy 148 times. There were 42 days without a cloud. This record shows that *clear weather* is here the rule and cloudy the exception, and this will be more evident when the statement is made that during the same period 32.1 inches of rain and melted snow fell, all in 61 days of the 365.

The Climate of Staunton and its Vicinity may be summarized as follows:—

1st. It is a *dry* one, —that is, while there is an abundance of moisture it is *not damp*.

2nd. It is a *mild* one, its extremes of heat and cold are rarely great and never of long continuance,—its general temperature is a medium one.

3rd. It is everywhere *favorable for out-of-door work during nearly the entire year*. Its winter rarely begins before the first of January and consequently is of short duration, and snow and ice rarely remain more than a week or fortnight. The well attested facts of the *length of the growing season*, the *distribution of its rainfall throughout the year*, the *shortness and mildness of its winter*, the *long periods favorable for seeding, planting and harvesting*, render this, beyond question, one of the best agricultural countries in the world,—one where the largest results can be obtained from the least amount of labor and with the least drain upon the energies of the laborer.

4th. It is a *very healthy climate* as is proven by the statistics of the longevity, healthfulness and vigor of its population, comparing in these particulars with the most favored regions of the United States, and by the fact that nowhere in the cool-temperate zone do the people, from choice, stay more in the open air, and open their houses, stores, shops and offices to “the weather.”

5th. It affords considerable variety in the details of climate within a moderate area, so much does its surface vary in aspect and elevation,—the county of Augusta furnishing inhabited and fertile lands ranging in altitude from 1,000 to 3,000 feet above the sea, the equivalent of 6° of temperature or more than 400 miles of latitude.

6th. It lies out of the track of the storm centres of the United States, as anyone can see that will refer to the “Monthly Weather Reviews,” of the United States Signal Service from 1871 to the present time, or to the “Chart showing the Frequency of Storm Centres” in the Statistical Atlas of the U. S., published by order of Congress in 1874. The latter shows that no portion of the Union is freer from the passage of storm-centres that have so much influence,—says the report

accompanying the chart named,— “*on the habitability of a country, and the diseases that originate in the sudden changes of weather that attend storms.*”

This chart shows that from March 1871 to February 1873, inclusive, only from 1 to 5 storm centres crossed this region, while from 5 to 10 crossed most of Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, Missouri, &c.; from 10 to 15 crossed southern New England, large portions of New York, Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa, &c.; and from 15 to 22 crossed central and northern New England, all the states bordering on the Great Lakes, and Canada.

The Religious Advantages and proclivities of the people of this town are shown in these statistics of its churches at the time of the census of 1870.

Churches (White).	No. of Churches.	Accommodations.	Value of Church Property.
Methodist Episcopal, South	1	900	\$ 15,000
Protestant Episcopal	1	800	30,000
Presbyterian	1	500	20,000
Baptist	1	500	10,000
Lutheran	1	400	10,000
Roman Catholic	1	300	10,000
Total	6	3,400	\$ 95,000
Churches (Colored).			
Methodist Episcopal	1	300	6,000
African Methodist Episcopal	1	400	6,000
Total	2	700	\$ 12,000
Aggregate	8	4,100	\$ 107,000

These statistics reveal the remarkable fact that there were church accommodations for almost the entire population of the city, white and black, and it could have been said of it as Dr. Hoge said of Virginia to the Evangelical Alliance, at New York in 1873, “nowhere is there a more generous provision for the ordinances of the gospel.”

It is well to state, for the information of those not familiar with our institutions, that by the Constitution, the supreme law of the land, there is perfect freedom secured to all in matters of religion. There is no state church, none supported by taxation;—each individual is free to follow his own choice, according to the dictates of his own conscience, and to support or frequent any church or none.

The following table, of the present, 1878, condition of the churches of the town, shows that its religious advantages have kept abreast of its progress in other particulars.

Staunton Churches—1878.

Denominations (White).	No.	Missions attached.	Members.	Members of Sunday Schools.	Accommodations Church.	Accommodations S. S.	Value of Church property.
Presbyterian (1st & 2nd.) . .	2	3	410	550	1,300	1,000	\$58,000
Protestant Episcopal (Trinity)	1	2	316	150	800	350	50,000
Baptist	1	2	439	284	600	300	15,000
Methodist Episcopal	1	2	461	585	900	300	20,000
Lutheran	1	—	160	130	400	300	10,000
Roman Catholic (St. Francis)	1	—	610	150	400	150	13,000
Total	7	11	2,396	1,840	4,400	2,400	\$166,000
Denominations (Colored).							
African Methodist Episcopal .	1	—	112	77	700	600	4,000
Methodist Episcopal	1	—	350	200	1,000	600	15,000
Baptist (Mt. Zion)	1	—	848	130	1,000	700	9,000
Total	3	—	1,310	407	2,700	1,900	28,000
Aggregate	10	11	3,706	2,256	7,100	4,300	\$194,000

1) The Roman Catholic church counts all that have been baptized as church members.

It will be seen from the above that the churches have fully participated in the growth of the city and that they furnish ample accommodations for even a larger population than the present. Their prosperity is one of the best indications of the general prosperity of the people.

It may be said of Staunton as of Virginia, — "The most cordial relations exist between the different denominations, and they often unite their efforts in Christian labor. Sunday schools are diligently maintained by all for the religious instruction of the young, and the best talent in the churches is enlisted in their work. The clergy, with rare exceptions, confine themselves to the duties of their calling, or kindred work, the sentiment of the people being opposed to their taking part in politics, etc."²

2) Hotchkiss' Summary of Va., p. 196.

The Young Men's Christian Association of Staunton has a membership of some 400, a large, well furnished and convenient hall, supplied with papers and periodicals, and a well selected library of over 1,000 volumes. It holds a prayer-meeting every Sunday afternoon, has courses of lectures during the year, has its reading-room and library open, free to all, daily from 5 to 10 P. M., and its members, embracing men from all the Protestant denominations, are earnest and efficient in aiding in all good and charitable works. Their expenditures the past year were some \$760, and they have a balance in their treasury. The organization is a live one, in a sound and healthy condition.

The Healthfulness of Staunton during the period embraced in the preceding weather tables, as well as its general salubrity, may be inferred from the facts of mortality presented by the United States Census of 1870. The deaths during that census-year, — the one from June 1st, 1869, to June 1st, 1870, — were 70, or less than 14 in the 1,000 of the population, an exceptionally low rate for towns as anyone can see that will consult the published statistics. Of these 70 deaths, 1.36 per cent. of the population at that time, 43 were whites, 27 males and 16 females, and 27 were blacks, 13 males and 14 females, giving the rate of mortality as 1.19 per cent. among the whites and 1.75 per cent. among the blacks. Of those that died 15 were married people, 4 widows, and 51 unmarried; five were of foreign birth, all from Ireland. The Insane Asylum, located here, is credited with 11 of the deaths, 2 females and 9 males.

The monthly mortality was, 2 in January, 5 in February, 7 in March, 4 in April, 8 in May, 4 in June, 11 in July, 10 in August, 4 in September, 4 in October, 6 in November and 5 in December.

The ages of those that died may be classified as follows, — 18 were one year old and under, 6 were between 1 and 5, 4 between 5 and 10, 3 between 10 and 20, 7 between 20 and 30, 9 between 30 and 40, 4 between 40 and 50, 8 between 50 and 60, 4 between 60 and 70, 5 between 70 and 80 and 2 over 80.

The following is from a letter from Dr. A. M. Fauntleroy, of this City:— "Staunton is situated upon high and rolling ground which makes the drainage as complete as natural drainage can be. The area occupied by the City is, for the population, quite extensive; except in the central or business portion it is not closely built, the houses being surrounded by well shaded grass plots. These features of construction, together with the

admirable natural drainage, most favorably influence the hygiene of the population. The water supply is abundant and good, obtained from a reservoir supplied from never failing springs. The dryness of the atmosphere, the height above the sea level, the pure bracing winds which come here divested of everything noxious, tend to make Staunton, and the surrounding country, healthy. We are free from the miasmatic diseases which affect the death rate as well as the vitality of the population in paludal districts.

In winter mild catarrhal affections, including bronchitis and tonsilitis, prevail to a slight extent: lung diseases are neither frequent nor severe. And the instances are few and rare in which consumption began to be developed here. In summer, from July to September, diarrhoea and other diseases of the alimentary canal prevail in mild type, never assuming an epidemic character, and are, for the most part, attributable either to errors of diet or exposure. There are no diseases of a local origin to be particularly ascribed to any peculiarity of climate or position: indeed we may be said to enjoy a freedom from endemic diseases: the same may be said of the entire Valley, which is truly the garden spot of Virginia, possessing vast mineral and agricultural resources, where health may be found and maintained, and where wealth is promised those who come here to go to work."

The Educational Advantages of Staunton are of a superior character, — its graded public schools, offering complete facilities for a common or high school education or for a preparation for entering college, are free to all between the ages of 5 and 21; its select school for boys provides intermediate or academic instruction at a moderate charge to those preferring private preparatory schools; its four denominational but not sectarian female colleges, Methodist, Episcopal, Lutheran and Presbyterian, are among the most thorough and prosperous in the country, as is evidenced by the hundreds of young ladies in attendance upon their classes from more than half the states of the Union. — Besides, it is less than two hours by rail from the celebrated University of Virginia, at Charlottesville, with its unrivaled facilities for academic or professional training, and its free academic tuition to the young men of Virginia, on the one hand, and only 36 miles (now by stage, but soon by rail over a railway in progress), to Washington and Lee University, at Lexington, an incorporated institution, conducted upon much the same plan as the University of Vir-

ginia, or the Virginia Military Institute, the West Point of Virginia, with free, state cadets, on the other hand.

The Free Public Schools of Staunton were organized in 1870, contemporaneously with their organization in Virginia, and during the school year 1870-'71 ten schools, 8 for white children and 2 for colored, were, taught by 14 teachers, for 5.81 months, with an average attendance of 277 white and 103 colored children. At that time there was a joint Superintendent for the public schools of the county and city. In 1873 the free public schools of the city were reorganized with 4 grades of schools for the whites and 2 grades for the blacks, and all put in charge of a City Superintendent of schools, — the city having been most efficiently aided in this work from the Peabody Education Fund and by Dr. Barnas Sears, a citizen of Staunton, the learned General Agent of that fund. During the school year 1873-4 there were 13 grades or schools, 9 for whites and 4 for blacks, with 14 teachers, taught for 7 months, with an average attendance of 390 whites and 160 blacks. Since 1873 the same organization has been continued and under the same superintendent.

During the school year 1876-'7, the last reported, there were 15 schools, 12 for whites and 3 for blacks, taught by 17 teachers, 2 males and 15 females, for 10 months, with an average daily attendance of 422 white and 133 black children, 555 in all. These returns show that 30 per cent. of the white and 27 per cent. of the black school population of the city, — all those between the ages of 5 and 21, — were, on an average, in daily attendance in the free public schools during the annual session of 10 scholastic months of this year. The enrollment for attendance during the year was 576 whites and 250 blacks, a total of 826, which was 42 per cent. of the white and 50 per cent. of the black school population. — 100 of the white pupils were studying the higher branches. The average monthly enrollment to each teacher was 38 and the average age of the pupils 9.6 years.

The average salaries paid to the male teachers were \$120.33 a month and to the female teachers \$38.62. There were paid during the year, for teachers' wages \$8,653, for other purposes, rent, fuel, &c., \$2,632.93 or a total of \$11,285.93. The funds were derived, from the state \$1,208.35, from city appropriation \$7,992.61, from tuition for those from without the corporation \$274.50, and from other sources, including \$2,000 from the Peabody Education Fund, \$2,486.03, aggregating \$11,961.49.

At this time, May 1878, there are in operation, for whites, 12 schools, in 5 grades, with 12 teachers; and for blacks, 4 schools, in 2 grades, with 4 teachers. — The grades are, First and Second Primary, Intermediate, Grammar School and High School.

The only requirement for the admission of any one between the ages of 5 and 21, living in Staunton, to its public schools of any grade, is the production of a certificate of vaccination from a city physician on application for enrollment.

Those living beyond the corporate limits of the city may attend its schools by paying tuition at the rate of \$1 a month in the primary, \$1.50 in the intermediate, \$2 in the grammar and \$2.50 in the high schools. — The county free schools are open, quite near the city limits, without charge to those living without the corporation.

The aim of the public schools is to give a thorough training in the common English branches to all the pupils, teaching each one to think for himself, thus laying the foundation for intellectual improvement while imparting skill in the application of principles in the affairs of life. Vocal music is taught in all the schools by a teacher having no other duty, and all are drilled in singing and the reading of music.

The City Superintendent of Public Schools has supervision of and duly visits all the schools and investigates not only the study work but all cases of misdemeanors and punishments. He devotes all his time to the schools. The teachers are appointed by the Board of Education of the city, after they have obtained a certificate of qualification, based on an examination by the Superintendent. They are required to meet every Saturday for normal drill and consultation, and in this way the efficiency and unity of the system is preserved.

The discipline maintained requires a prompt and willing obedience from the pupils and the exercise of a firm but kind and parental authority on the part of the teachers. Parents are consulted and their co-operation sought, and corporal punishment is resorted to only in extreme cases, — but good order is strictly insisted upon and enforced, and no town can furnish a more orderly and well behaved set of children and youths.

Separate and wholly distinct schools are, by law, provided for whites and blacks, but equal facilities are furnished to each race.

The schools open about the middle of September of each year and continue until about the middle of the following June, with a short vacation at Christmas.

Board of Education, for the Free Public Schools of Staunton: Maj. H. M. Bell, president; Wm. J. Nelson, Esq., secretary and treasurer; M. P. Funkhouser, P. B. Hoge, James H. Blackley, John B. Scherer. Prof. John J. Ladd, A. M., Superintendent of Public Schools.

These statements show that ample provision is made for furnishing to all the children of the city, without any charge, the elements of a substantial education. They also show a healthy condition of progress and furnish a guarantee that the schools will be maintained to a standard that will meet the requirements of an intelligent and enterprising people.

St. Francis School, attached to the Roman Catholic church, is free to those belonging to that denomination; it had some 75 pupils during the current year, in charge of one teacher. It is expected that the Sisters of Charity will hereafter take charge of the school. It is conducted in a substantial brick building on the grounds of St. Francis church.

Hoover's Select High School, for boys, is a preparatory school for the intermediate classes at the University of Virginia. It is well organized, — the boys being uniformed and drilled as cadets, but without arms, — and ably and successfully conducted by Capt. H. L. Hoover and two assistants. The number of pupils is limited. The charges are \$52 for 9 months, — the school is taught six days in each week.

The four Female Colleges of Staunton rank with the first in the country, as is attested by the fact that during the session of 1877-'78, recently closed, they had in attendance, in large numbers, young ladies from twenty-two states and the District of Columbia, including not only all the southern states from Maryland to Texas and Florida to Missouri, but also Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and Nevada of the northern states, — so it may justly claim to be a female educational centre for the whole country. The continued prosperity of all these institutions, for so many years, is due not only to the soundness and thoroughness of their methods of instruction and the social and religious influences that surround them, but also to the invigorating healthfulness of the climate, the nourishing products of the rich soil, the pure

waters and the glorious scenery of the far-famed Valley of the Shenandoah, — the river of the Beautiful Daughter of the Stars, in the expressive language of the red man, — that play no unimportant part in the remarkable development of feminine grace and beauty that comes to those that attend these institutions.

As already remarked, these schools are *denominational but not sectarian*, they are all under wholesome and catholic religious influences, and it is quite common to find those of different denominations attending the same school.

These female colleges, in the order of their respective ages, are:—



The Augusta Female Seminary, under the general control of members of the Presbyterian Church, was established in 1842. It has Preparatory and Collegiate courses of study and a Musical Department. The Collegiate course is distributed into separate schools, as in the University of Virginia, such as Latin, Modern Languages, Mathematics, Moral Science, Natural Sciences, English Literature and History. Certificates of Proficiency are conferred, in each separate school, upon the pupils that pass satisfactory examinations in all the studies of that school, and a diploma of Full Graduate is conferred upon one that holds certificates of proficiency in seven specified schools.

The sessions of this Seminary begin on the first Wednesday in September and close on the first Wednesday in June following. The entire expenses for a pupil per session, are, accord-

ing to studies pursued, from \$260 to \$350. The extra charges are, for music on the piano \$60, for modern and ancient languages \$20, &c. The charges to day scholars; per session, are \$46 in the Preparatory, \$50 in the Intermediate, and \$60 in the Collegiate course.

The present Principal of this Seminary, Miss Mary J. Baldwin, has had charge of it for the past sixteen years. During the session recently closed she was assisted by twenty-three teachers and officers and large numbers of young ladies were in attendance from eighteen states and the District of Columbia.



The Virginia Female Institute, belonging to the Council of the Diocese of Virginia of the Protestant Episcopal Church was established in 1844. Its courses of study include Primary, Preparatory and Collegiate departments. The Collegiate is divided into 10 schools, such as English, History and Literature. Mathematics, Natural

Sciences, Languages, Music, &c., and each school into junior, intermediate and senior sections. Diplomas are awarded, on successful graduation, in each school, and a full diploma, or degree, on graduation in a specified number of schools.

The sessions of this Institute are from the second Wednesday in September to the second Wednesday in the following June. Its charges for the year 1878-'9, will be, for tuition, board, washing, fuel, lights, &c., for the session, \$240 in the Primary, and \$260 in the Collegiate department. The extra charges are for instrumental music \$60, for advanced modern languages \$20, &c.

The present Rector, Rev. R. H. Phillips, M. A., has had charge of this Institute for the past twenty years. During the last session he was assisted in his duties by some twenty teachers and officers, and the many young ladies in attendance were the representatives of thirteen states and the Federal District.

The Wesleyan Female Institute, under the care of the Balti-

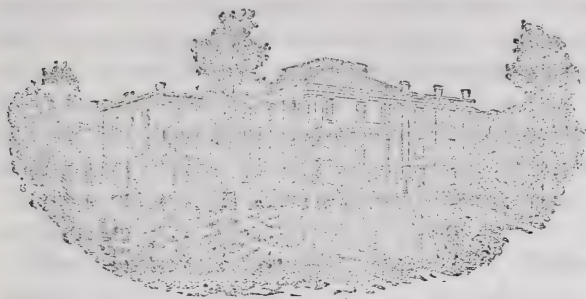
more Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church (South,) was organized in 1846. Its courses of study include a Preparatory and a Collegiate; the latter is divided into 13 distinct

schools, such as Mathematics, Natural Philosophy, Latin, French, Moral Philosophy, Music, &c., in each of which a diploma is awarded on proof of proficiency of attainments in the studies of that particular school. A full diploma is conferred upon one that has graduated in eight specified schools.

The sessions of this Institute begin the third Thursday in September and end the third Thursday in the following June. Its charge for board, washing and lights, tuition in the English course with Latin and French, for the scholastic year, is \$230; with music on one instrument in addition, \$280; for tuition alone in the English course with Latin and French, \$50.

The present President, Rev. Wm. A. Harris, D. D., has had charge of this Institute for the last 12 years. The corps of teachers and officers the past session numbered twenty-four, and the young ladies in attendance one hundred and twenty-five, representing fourteen states.

The Staunton Female Seminary, under the general auspices of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, was incorporated and opened in 1870. Its courses of study are arranged in Juvenile, Preparatory, Academic and Collegiate departments, each having graded relations to the others. There are two classes in the Preparatory department, and three each in the Academic and Colle-



giate. It has special courses in Languages, Music, &c. Diplomas are conferred upon the graduates in the Collegiate course.

The sessions of this Seminary begin with September and continue, for forty weeks, to some time in June. The expenses, for the session, for tuition, board, washing, fuel, and lights, are,—in the Preparatory department \$225, in the Academic \$231, and in the Collegiate \$241. For day pupils, per session, \$16 in the Juvenile, \$26 in the Preparatory, \$37 in the Academic, and \$46 in the Collegiate department. The extra charges are,—for instrumental music from \$50 to \$60, French or German \$20, &c.

The present Principal, Rev. J. I. Miller, A. M., has had charge of this school from its foundation. Last session, the 8th of the school, he was aided by fourteen teachers and officers, and eighty-three young ladies were in attendance, representing seven different states.

Each of the above female colleges occupies a square of the city in a commanding situation, each has large and attractive buildings,—as the accompanying cuts show,—and they are all provided with whatever is necessary, in the way of numerous skilled teachers, ample accommodations, water, gas, heat, ventilation, improved grounds and appliances for exercise and recreation, apparatus, musical instruments, &c., to make them thoroughly good and safe places, equal to any in the country, for the useful and ornamental education and training of young ladies.

The Sisters of Charity, of the Roman Catholic Church, will open a school here, under the care of that church, the coming (1878) fall.

The Institution for the education of the Deaf, Dumb and Blind of the state of Virginia, is located at Staunton, and the extensive and imposing buildings and beautiful grounds of this noble charity are among the attractive features of the city. The state has expended large sums of money in bringing this institution to its present state of usefulness and



efficiency and it annually appropriates from \$30,000 to \$40,000 to its maintenance and improvement. The blind and the deaf-and-dumb are here given a common-school education and taught some useful trade or employment, the course of training lasting for seven years.

The entire cost per year at this school, for everything but clothing, is \$130 for the children from this state and \$200 for those from other states. Those of this state unable to pay are taken and taught and clothed without charge.

The present Principal is Capt. Chas. D. McCoy; the teachers and officers, during the past year, were twenty-six, and the pupils in attendance, all from Virginia, were 107 mutes and 47 blind.

The Western Lunatic Asylum of Virginia, one of the state's great charities, is located in the eastern suburbs of Staunton. Since its establishment in 1828 Virginia has spent large sums in making this, one of the oldest, one of the very best hospitals of its kind in the country, giving it an annual appropriation of \$60,000, and adding often to its capacity, until now it can properly accommodate 600 patients. It has been remarkably successful in treating those diseased in mind, and its reputation, noble buildings, and ample and improved grounds are worthy objects of local pride. The present Superintendent is Dr. R. F. Baldwin.

The Newspapers of Staunton, in the order of their ages, are, *The Spectator*, *The Vindicator*, and *The Valley Virginian*. These are all large sized newspapers, issued weekly, the *Spectator* on Tuesday, the *Virginian* on Thursday and the *Vindicator* on Friday mornings, and the subscription price of each is \$2.00 a year, payable in advance. They are classed as political and advertising papers, the *Spectator* and *Vindicator* being Democratic or Conservative, and the *Valley Virginian* Republican, as parties are now constituted; but they all freely discuss and report upon every question and matter of public interest and agree in an earnest desire and effort to advance the intelligence and prosperity of the community.—It may truthfully be said, that they are all prosperous and well sustained, having a circulation of from 1,500 to 2,000 copies each and a liberal advertising patronage; that they are ably, independently, and especially decently and morally edited, and well and attractively printed. They all have the best of power presses of various kinds, some driven by steam and some by water, and do a large amount of job work, in all its branches, in a style equal to any in the country, as their work testifies, and as cheaply.

The Goodson Gazette is a neat and sprightly sheet, published weekly by the mutes of the Virginia Deaf, Dumb and Blind Institution, at 50 cents a year.

The daily papers of Richmond, Washington and Baltimore reach here by 1:30 P. M. of the day of their publication, and those of Philadelphia and New York by 7 A. M. of the day following their issue.

Hotels.—*The Virginia Hotel* is an extensive and well appointed establishment, built of brick, having accommodations for 250 guests; its charges for board, including lights and fuel, are from \$2 to \$2.50 per day, from \$10 to \$14 per week, and from \$25 to \$40 per month, depending on location of rooms.

The American Hotel is a large and comfortably furnished brick building, near the station of the Chesapeake & Ohio R. W.; it has accommodations for 150 guests, and charges for board, including lights and fuel, etc., from \$2 to \$2.50 a day, \$12 a week, and from \$25 to \$40 a month, according to location of rooms.

The Miller House is a large brick, private hotel, having accommodations for 40 guests; its charges are \$2 a day, from \$5 to \$7 a week, and from \$20 to \$25 a month.

The Kalorama Boarding-house is a well kept and commodious establishment, pleasantly situated, with ample grounds and shade trees, in an open and airy part of the city. It can accommodate 50 guests. The charges, for board, fuel and lights, are \$1.50 a day, \$8 a week, and \$30 a month, with a reduction for families or parties.

There are other boarding houses, in various parts of the city, with prices to meet the wants of guests, and many find it pleasant to sojourn here, among others those from the north in winter and those from the south in summer, while others come to remain longer and avail themselves of the educational advantages here offered for their children.

The Banking facilities of this city are excellent for a place of its size and the two banks here located have a deservedly high reputation as sound and well managed financial institutions.

The National Valley Bank of Staunton,—the successor of the old Bank of the Valley in Virginia, one of the most popular and successful monied institutions that ever existed in the state, but which was wound up by the results of the Confederate war,—

was organized in January, 1866, and has had a most successful career, always enjoying the confidence of the section of country in which it has done business. Its paid up capital stock is \$200,000, and its surplus fund is \$210,000;—the latter attests the conservative character of its management and the absolute security which it affords to its note-holders and depositors. Its stock is much sought after by investors and sells, on the market, at a higher price than any other bank stock in Virginia. Wednesday is its discount day.—President, Gen. John Echols; Vice-president, R. W. Burke; Cashier, Thomas A. Bledsoe.

The Augusta National Bank of Staunton was organized, in May, 1875, with a paid up capital of \$50,000 which has been gradually increased to \$100,000. But few institutions of its age can show a more successful history or stand higher in the confidence of a community for financial soundness and for conducting business on correct principles. Thursday is its discount day.—President, Hon. Hugh W. Sheffey; Vice-president, Hon. A. H. H. Stuart; Cashier, N. P. Catlett.

The Secret Societies of the city are;—Staunton Lodge No. 13, Union Royal Arch Chapter, and Stevenson Commandery, of the Masons; Staunton Lodge, No. 45, and Central Encampment, No. 24, of the Odd Fellows; Hiawatha Tribe, No. 39 of the improved Order of Red Men; a lodge of Knights of Honor; the West Augusta, Mizpah and Juvenile lodges of Good Templars; a lodge of Sons of Temperance and one of Sons of Jonadab. These all have good lodge rooms, or halls, for their meetings and are in a prosperous condition.

The Hebrews of the city have a Home Circle and a Sabbath School, each provided with a hall.

The Military Companies are, the West Augusta Guard of infantry, and the Staunton Artillery, well drilled and equipped organizations of citizen soldiery. The noted "*Stonewall Brigade*" Band is a superior body of musicians, organized in 1855. This was the band of the brigade originally organized and commanded by the famous "Stonewall" Jackson, and it served with it during the entire Confederate war, 1862-'5.

The Baldwin-Augusta Fair has extensive and beautiful grounds, near the city, improved with buildings, a race track, boating lake, &c., making it a favorite place of resort. Its annual exhibition, in the fall, brings together a fine exhibit of the productions of the country and large numbers of people.

The Population of Staunton at this time, 1878, is estimated as 6,216. This number is found by multiplying the number of individual names in the directory, (that of the Shenandoah Valley by Sheriff, 1878-9) by 4, the ratio used for such purposes, this gives an increase of 1,096 over 1870, when it was 5,120.

The movement of population here is presented in the annexed table, compiled from the U. S. Census Reports :

Race, &c.	Sex.	1860	1870
White .	Males	1,468	1,634
	Females	1,397	1,952
	Total	2,865	3,586
Black . .	Males	455	655
	Females	555	879
	Total	1,010	1,534
Aggregate		3,875	5,120

This shows that the increase from 1860 to 1870— notwithstanding the Confederate war which was waged during four years of the decade—was over 32 per cent., the whites having increased over 25 per cent., and the blacks over 51 per cent., the latter due in a great measure to increased demand for laborers, which drew numbers of blacks from the country. The whites were over 70 per cent. or nearly three-fourths of the whole, and now the proportion is still greater.

The character of the population in 1870 may be gathered from the statements, that the whites formed over 70 per cent. of it; that the foreign-born males were 117 and the females 71, or 188 of foreign birth in 5,120. The 45 blind and 337 insane, credited to the town, were mostly, if not wholly, inmates of the state Western Lunatic Asylum, and the Institution for the Deaf Dumb and Blind, located here, that have been brought from all portions of the state. The males over 21, the voting and citizen population, were 1,209 or about 24 per cent.,—the proportion in the State was about 22 per cent.

The condition of the population may be inferred from the statement that it was distributed in 701 families, occupying 642 dwellings, an average of about 7 persons to each family, and showing almost as many dwellings as families.

The basis of the population of this city, as well as that of Augusta county, is largely Scotch-Irish, the majority of the people having descended from the Scotsmen that, coming from the north of Ireland, settled this region soon after it was first visited by white men in 1716, but with these descendants are now mingled representatives from nearly every state of the Union and from the leading nations of Europe.

Taxation in Staunton, for the year beginning May 1st, 1878, is as follows on property and occupations:—

Lands and improvements, on		Bar room,	165.00
each \$100 of valuation by		Bowling saloon,	75.00
state assessment,	\$1.10	and \$25 for each alley over	
Males 21 & over, capitation tax,	.50	one.	
Collateral inheritances, . . .	6 ^{pct}	Billiard saloon,.	100.00
Real estate deed or contract		and \$50 on each table over	
recorded,	1.00	one.	
Income exceeding \$600, . . .	1 ^{pct}	Bagatelle saloon, for each	
Bank stock of city banks,		table,.	20.00
each \$100 of value,	1.10	Theatrical, &c performance,	6.00
Staunton Gas Co. stock, each		and each additional per-	
\$100 of value,	1.10	formance, \$4.	
Express company, each, . . .	175.00	Circus or menagerie, 1st per-	
Insurance agent,	30.00	formance,	30.00
Accident,,	10.00	Each additional performance,	10.00
Telegraph company,	100.00	Side-shows to circus, &c.,	
Lightning-rod flitters, . . .	15.00	each performance,	10.00
Merchant, dealer in coal, lum-		Junk dealer,	63.00
ber, &c—		" " agent,	30.00
Purchases under \$1,000, . . .	6.25	Agent for sale of patent rights,	
" " over \$1,000 and un-		other than patentee, . . .	45.00
der \$2,000,	12.50	Land agent,	50.00
Purchases over \$2,000, and		Retail cigar, &c dealer, ex-	
under \$20,000,	58 ^{pct}	clusively,	20.00
Purchases over \$20,000 and		Licensed merchant, dealing in	
less than \$30,000 on each		cigars, &c.,	40.00
\$100 over \$20,000,	.50	Book agent, (subject to state	
Purchases over \$30,000 and		laws),	10.00
less than \$40,000 on each		Hall for theatre, &c.,	60.00
\$1.00 over \$30,000,	.30	Erratic spinner,	10.00
Purchases over \$40,000 and		Merry-go-round, &c.,	10.00
less than \$50,000 on each		Attorney at-law, licensed less	
\$100 over \$40,000,	.20	than 5 years,	10.00
Purchases over \$50,000 on		Attorney-at-law, licensed over	
each \$100,	.10	5 years,	15.00
Commission merchant, \$100		Physician or surgeon,	
on commissions over \$1,000		Dentist,	
and,	1.00	Historian,	
In liquor dealer retail, . . .	175.00	Schoolmaster,	
" " wholesale,	275.00	Agent for printing house, . .	
Additional, if drunk where		Storage or wagon-house, . . .	15.00
sold,	35.00	" " " yard	25.00

Auctioneer, general,	62.00	Livery stable, 50 cts on each stall, and	60.00
“ real estate,	62.00	One-horse dray, wagon or cart for hire,	4.00
“ general and real estate,	90.00	Two-horse dray, wagon or cart for hire,	6.00
Canvasser for buying subsistence,	50.00	Four-horse dray, wagon or cart for hire,	12.00
Stock broker,	100.00	Hack or 4-wheeled carriage for hire,	3.00
Private “	100.00	Rectifier of spirits,	60.00
Stock and private broker,	150.00	Seller of live stock,	12.00
Pawn broker,	75.00	Agent for sale of foreign agricultural implements, carriages, wagons, &c.,	50.00
Malt liquor manufacturer,	30.00	Seller of musical instruments,	30.00
Ordinary keeper,	200.00	Sewing machine agent,	30.00
and 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ ct on annual rent value of property.		Butcher—selling at market-house,	12.50
Private entertainment,	40.00	Common crier,	12.50
and 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ ct on annual rent value of property.		Ice dealer,	6.25
Boarding house,	25.00	All license taxes are payable in advance before the 1st day of May.	
and 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ ct on annual rent.			
Eating house,	30.00		
and if liquor sold, \$165. more.			

The following exhibit shows the Resources and Appropriations of the city for the year ending April 30, 1879:

Resources.	Appropriations.
Tax on \$1,785,743 of real estate,	Interest, \$19,113.96
\$19,621.17	Sinking fund, 2,710.00
Tax on \$610,875 of personal estate,	Salaries, 4,480.00
6,719.62	Public schools, (including rents,) 6,000.00
Incomes, 900.00	Support of poor, 2,000.00
Capitation tax, 775.00	General street improvement, 2,000.00
License and bank tax, 1,400.00	Street lights, 1,000.00
Water tax, 5,000.00	Water works, 2,000.00
Market-house rents, &c., 1,000.00	Police, 1,920.00
Fines, 500.00	Fire department and new hose, 700.00
Hay-scale receipts, 200.00	Cleaning market-house, 75.00
Dog tax, 200.00	Pay on bond to Valley Railroad Co., 1,242.00
	Pay on bond to Donaghe estate, 1,000.00
	Delinquents, 1,000.00
	Contingences, 3,674.83
\$48,915.79	\$48,915.79

The Great Valley of which the Shenandoah Valley in which Staunton is situated forms a part, is one of the grand divisions of Virginia; it extends entirely across the state from northeast to southwest, a distance of 305 miles, between the Blue Ridge on the east and the Kintinny or North mountains on the west; it contains from 7,000 to 8,000 square miles, about five million acres, nearly one sixth of the state, and has about the same extent as the state of Massachusetts or the kingdom of Belgium, each of which has some 2,000,000 people, while it has 200,000; but it produces, annually, food enough to supply the wants of either of those states, and has a producing capacity for supplying ten million people if the 5,000 square miles of its limestone lands were brought under cultivation. Though ranking but 4th in area among the seven grand divisions of Virginia, in 1870 it stood *first*, in the quantity produced of wheat, rye, barley, hay, clover and grass seeds, hemp, wine, sorghum molasses, butter, cheese and wool, in numbers of sheep, cattle, horses and animals used for food, in the value of live stock and orchard products; *second*, in the aggregate production of cereals, wheat, rye, corn and buckwheat, *per capita*, in the production of maple sugar and molasses, in numbers of milch cows and in the value of animals slaughtered for food; *third*, in the production of oats, honey, flour and flax-seed; and *fourth* in the production of Indian corn, Irish potatoes and tobacco, and in numbers of swine and mules,—so that really, area and population considered, it led the state in all these numerous farming and grazing staples, showing not only its productiveness but its remarkable adaptability to a great variety of products, so wide is its range of soils, climates, elevations and exposures. Its population in 1870, numbered 197,867, whites 159,927 or over 80 per cent. of the whole, blacks 38,027; about 26 to the square mile, (in Massachusetts there were 187, in Rhode Island 166, in Connecticut 113, and in Indiana 50),—these were almost exclusively of native origin, less than one per cent. being of foreign birth,—it can challenge comparison with any country in the sobriety, industry, general intelligence, thrift and high moral character of its people. Its churches, in 1870, had 148,000 sittings, enough for its entire adult population. Here are located Washington and Lee University, the Virginia Military Institute, Roanoke College, the Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College, Emory and Henry College, a dozen female colleges and numerous male academies.

No better showing of the agricultural, grazing, dairying, etc., advantages of this Valley of Virginia as a whole, and its re-

markable adaptation to a great variety of products, can be presented than by giving some of its statistics of production in 1860 and 1870, from the United States Census, bearing in mind that in the interval four years of gigantic warfare had hindered the increase of population, deranged its labor, and swept over it and destroyed its resources,—in fact this was the backbone of the Confederacy and as long as its armies had communication with the supplies of this Valley so long did they hold the front of Richmond and Petersburg. It must also be remembered that less than half of this splendid farming country is under cultivation; its people having a traditional regard for wood-land (see p. 4), have kept over half of its rich lands in virgin forests to this day, each farm having from one-third to over one-half of its acreage in the original growth of timber, greatly enhancing their value in every respect and adding vastly to the picturesque beauty, healthfulness and agreeableness of the country, presenting in these respects a marked contrast to the wind-swept, treeless regions of the West.

The census states that in 1860 the Valley had, in its farms, 1,810,512 acres of wood-land and 1,520,873 acres of cleared land, so that in reality all of the agricultural resources credited to it by that census were the products of 2,376 square miles of land, an area that would not make more than two or three of the average sized prairie counties of the West.

CENSUS RETURNS OF THE VALLEY OF VIRGINIA.

	1860.	1870
Milch cows, number	44,643	41,041
Butter produced, pounds	2,463,400	2,146,939
Cheese " "	78,316	44,816
Sheep, number.	124,746	84,931
Wool produced, pounds.	237,177	253,349
Honey " "	161,847	96,377
Beeswax " "	9,040	4,404
Swine, number.	229,358	127,200
Stock cattle, number	95,361	72,438
Working oxen, number.	3,378	1,952
Food cattle (all kinds), number	497,486	327,562
Animals slaughtered, value	\$1,734,486	\$2,116,902
Horses, number	51,518	44,032
Mules and asses, number	1,953	1,493
Value of all live stock.	\$7,480,675	\$6,929,598
Wheat produced, bushels	2,621,535	2,714,426
Corn " "	4,973,919	2,406,208
Rye " "	272,788	220,258
Buckwheat produced, bushels	41,646	8,337
Irish potatoes " "	300,519	188,718
Sweet " " "	23,756	13,398

Peas & beans produced, bushels,	8,177	3,765
Oats " "	1,372,823	1,345,875
Barley " "	6,012	4,111
Orchard products, value.	\$113,595	\$267,356
Market-garden products, value.	\$4,321	\$978
Sugar, maple, produced, lbs	54,132	42,961
Molasses, " " gals.	9,711	3,928
" sorghum, produced, gals	21,021	106,952
Wine produced, gals	4,562	8,532
Tobacco produced, pounds	3,657,921	924,331
Hay produced, tons	104,955	93,737
Clover-seed produced, bushels	22,652	7,090
Grass-seed " "	23,626	5,694
Flax-seed " "	7,146	2,023
Hops produced, pounds.	2,284	844
Cotton " "	83,600	4,800
Hemp " "	11,060	50,000
Flax " "	69,838	27,032

Augusta County, of which Staunton is the county-seat and in which it is centrally located, is the greatest "mother county" in the Union, for when it was organized, in 1738, it extended from the Blue Ridge westward to the Pacific; after the Treaty of Paris, 1763, its jurisdiction extended to the Mississippi, and from it were taken, some of them as counties, the states of Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, West Virginia and part of Pennsylvania, for its courts were held at Pittsburg. This county contains about 1,000 square miles, (Rhode Island contains 1,306, Delaware 2,120 and Connecticut 4,750): it occupies the head of the Shenandoah Valley and includes the head springs of North, Middle and South rivers that unite, near the northeastern corner of the county, to form the Shenandoah: the divide between the Shenandoah and the James waters crosses the southwestern part of the county so that about one-third of its surface is drained southwest into the James. Its surface lies entirely above the plane of 1,000 feet of altitude above the sea-level; its Valley portions proper, over 600 square miles of broadly undulating land, range from near 1,000 to over 2,000 feet in elevation, and its mountain lands range to 4,456 in Elliot's knob,—the average is not far from 1,500, a little above that of Staunton, (p. 9).

This county ranked, in 1870, among the 99 in Virginia, 5th. in population and 3rd. in acreage of cleared land, yet it stood, *first*, in the value of all farm products and in that of farming implements and machinery and of orchard products, in numbers of horses and milch cows, and in the production of hay and wine; *second*, in the value of its farms and in that of animals slaughtered for food, in numbers of stock cattle and swine, and

in the production of wheat and butter; *third*, in the value of its live stock; and *fourth*, in the production of rye, oats and barley,—it also ranked high in all the other Valley products enumerated in the preceding table. In manufactures its rank was 7th.; it had 264 establishments using 14 steam engines with 281 horse-powers; employing 648 hands, 631 males, 13 females and 4 youths; having \$497,655 of capital invested, paying \$74,946 for wages, \$674,340 for raw materials, producing \$985,554 worth of products; the leading industries, in the order of the value of their products, were the manufacture of iron pigs and castings, lumber, leather, machinery, distilled liquors, tobacco, agricultural implements, flouring mill products, etc.

The census returns for 1860 and 1870 show not only the variety of the products of Augusta and their large amount in proportion to acreage under cultivation and population, but also the capacity and recuperative power of the region, for the census of 1870 was taken but a few years after the close of the gigantic Confederate war that wasted this section and drained it of its resources of men and means, and yet the "returns," unlike those of other sections, are nearly equal to those of 1860.

CENSUS RETURNS OF AUGUSTA COUNTY.

	1860.	1870.
<i>Population.</i> —Whites.	21,547	22,026
Blacks	6,202	6,737
Aggregate.	27,749	28,763
<i>Land.</i> —Total acreage of county.	600,000	600,000
Improved, in farms, acres.	224,644	222,843
Unimproved, " "	213,515	178,028
Total acreage in farms	438,159	400,871
Cash value of farms.	\$10,997,286	\$10,232,552
<i>Farming Implements.</i> —Cash value of.	\$296,390	\$284,003
<i>Live Stock.</i> —Horses, number of.	8,852	7,599
Asses and mules, number of.	211	64
Milch cows, "	6,441	6,232
Working oxen, "	198	108
Other cattle, "	14,206	11,323
Sheep, "	13,013	8,211
Swine, "	31,033	19,211
Value of live stock.	\$1,287,615	\$1,086,917
" animals slaughtered.	\$254,383	\$346,890
<i>Produced.</i> —Wheat (winter), bushels.	307,402	462,963
Rye, "	57,479	29,835
Indian corn, "	752,530	280,380
Oats, "	191,379	334,492
Barley, "	477	516

<i>Produced.</i>	Peas and beans, bushels,	2,642	209
	Irish potatoes, "	42,766	28,090
	Sweet potatoes, "	1,361	498
	Buckwheat, "	7,030	526
	Clover-seed, "	8,342	499
	Flax-seed, "	408	147
	Grass-seed, "	2,942	803
	Butter, pounds	451,305	353,335
	Cheese, "	15,103	2,068
	Milk sold, gallons	. . .	1,260
	Honey, pounds	17,116	9,238
	Beeswax, "	843	489
	Maple sugar, pounds	585	669
	" molasses, gallons	5,915	25
	Sorghum " "	. . .	13,105
	Wine, "	1,168	2,028
	Hops, pounds	875	216
	Flax, "	4,528	4,799
	Cotton, bales	. . .	10
	Tobacco, "	40,727	2,000
	Hay, tons	21,687	19,671
	Orchard products, value.	\$15,229	\$52,796
	Market-garden " "	\$890	\$313
	Home manufactures, "	\$16,024	\$9,686
	Wool, pounds	35,810	23,291
	Forest products, value.	. . .	\$20,129
	Estimated value of farm products and improve- ments for year	. . .	\$2,130,430
	Wages paid during year, including value of board	. . .	\$320,873

The price of farms in this county and in the Valley generally depends, of course, upon their location, soil, condition of improvement, &c., but at this time some of the best in the country, good limestone lands, lying well, with good improvements, well fenced, excellent for grass and grain, with orchards, springs, &c., can be bought at from \$15 to \$50 per acre, depending very much on their size, the smaller ones costing more where they have good improvements; for example, I know a farm of 500 acres, on a river, 7 miles from Staunton, having 300 acres in blue grass pasture, extensive meadows, large brick house, good outbuildings, &c., the best kind of a dairy or stock farm, that can be bought for \$20 an acre; another, 5 miles from Staunton, of 100 acres, all of it the very best of land for any purpose, with good brick house, has just been sold at \$42.50 per acre; an exceptionally good farm, of about 200 acres, 10 miles from Staunton, with fine springs, choice fruit, and good improvements, is held at \$5,000; another very good farm of 163 acres has just been sold, on time, for \$1800. Farms can generally be bought by paying $\frac{1}{2}$ or $\frac{1}{3}$ of the purchase money in hand and the remainder in two or three equal, annual payments, with interest at 6 per cent, the legal rate in Virginia.

Property in Staunton can be bought on equally advantageous terms; good brick or frame houses, on large lots, can be had at from \$1,500 to \$5,000, on time payments, with the best of gas and an *abundance of water*, for Staunton has excellent gas-works, and few cities are as well supplied with water, Staunton having expended \$100,000 in the construction of water-works, which have a capacity of 3,000,000 gallons, sufficient for five times its present population, and a head that throws water above its most elevated houses, enabling it to dispense with fire engines, and giving a pressure well suited to the driving of light machinery,—the presses of two of the printing houses here are driven by water from ordinary service pipes.

The timber resources of the country tributary to Staunton make it one of the most desirable of places for the manufacture of all articles into the construction of which wood largely enters. No portion of the United States can furnish a greater variety of woods of superior quality, in greater quantity, cheaper in price, and more suitable for all manufacturing purposes, than that included in a radius of 100 miles from this city. More than half of the country, as a whole, along the line of the Chesapeake & Ohio Railway, from and including the Blue Ridge, for 250 miles to the westward and 100 miles on each side, that is from 30,000 to 40,000 square miles, a region two-thirds of the extent of the state of Pennsylvania, is still occupied by forests, mostly of original growth.

Of the Apalachian forests of the belt of country traversed by the Chesapeake & Ohio Prof. Brewer of Yale College, says, in the Statistical Atlas published by order of Congress,—“While the hard woods may not attain their greatest size, some of them, particularly white oak, white ash, and some of the hickories are believed to attain their greatest perfection as regards strength and durability, or, at least, they are only equalled by the timber of the same species on the line of these ridges beyond this district in both directions. This is a matter of great importance in ship and boat building, and in the manufacture of railroad cars and of agricultural implements.” It is believed that the white oak attains its greatest development of strength in certain parts of Virginia and West Virginia.”

The economic value of the timber of any region depends in a great measure upon its adaptation to a variety of purposes; the adaptation of that which can be had in any desired quantity at reasonable prices, at Staunton, may be judged of from the following list:

Oaks, unquestionably the most valuable of timber trees, form 50 per cent. of the forests of the Blue Ridge, the Valley, and Apalachia in Virginia, and the same is true, or nearly so, of Apalachia and Trans-Apalachia in West Virginia; consequently

more than one-fourth of this region is occupied by White, Spanish, Black, Red, Scarlet, Post, Chestnut, Rock-chestnut and other species of oaks that in size, grain, strength, durability, and the other qualities that render hard woods valuable for house and ship-building, manufacturing and other purposes* are unsurpassed in America,—nowhere are these trees more abundant and nowhere do they attain greater perfection. The economic importance and significance of these facts cannot be appreciated unless the reader will recall the almost endless uses for such timber in every part of the country, coupled with the fact that there are absolutely no forests of hard wood timber in all the western half of the continent, and that in the northern part of the *eastern half*, where alone they are found, they have everywhere been seriously encroached upon by the enormous and ever increasing demand.

White oak (*Quercus alba*), is the great forest timber of the Valley, forming from 40 to 50 per cent. of the splendid park-like forests that still occupy fully half of the area of Augusta and the adjacent counties. This timber as found here, in consequence of its growth where there is free access of air, is of the best quality, exceptionally good for making wagons, carriages, cars, agricultural implements and all other articles requiring a clear, tough, durable, nicely grained wood, one that warps but little in seasoning, because it is all the growth of the last 150 years, and is therefore now in its prime,—scarcely a tree can be found that is not sound throughout.

The Post oak (*Q. obtusiloba*),—called also Rough or Box White oak, or Turkey oak,—is one of the white oaks, found here scattered among the others, noted for its fine-grained, strong and durable wood.

The Chestnut oaks, valuable for timber, second only to the white oaks, and for tan-bark, here found, are, the Swamp chestnut oak (*Q. prinus*), and its two varieties the Rock chestnut oak and the Swamp white oak, all fine timber trees, varying in quality according to place of growth whether low or high land; and the Yellow chestnut oak (*Q. castanea*), *Red oak* (*Q. rubra*), a superior tree for fuel and now in demand for interior finishing is common in places, *Spanish oak* (*Q. falcata*), is plentiful, and this is one of our noblest forest trees; its timber is coarse-grained but its reddish color makes it desirable in house finishing. *Black or Yellow-bark oak* (*Q. tinctoria*), and *Scarlet oak* (*Q. coccinea*), both valuable for timber, but especially for tan-bark and the manufacture of quercitron for dyeing, &c., are plentiful on the higher lands.

White and yellow Tulip-poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*),—the poplar of the South and West, but the white-wood or tulip-tree of the North,—of the finest quality and size, trees from 3 to 5 feet in diameter and with massive and perfectly cylindrical trunks for from 50 to 80 feet in length, can be had in any quantity, since the Chesapeake & Ohio Railway crosses for 150 miles a belt of country abounding in this superior timber, the value of which, for all the uses to which white pine of the best quality is applied and for others for which this wood has pecu-

liar adaptations, is hardly known to the eastward, where this is a small tree, but well known in the West, especially on the Ohio waters, where it is the soft wood of the country for all building, carriage and wagon body, boat, barge and furniture making purposes,—it may well be called the basis of the great furniture manufacturing industry of Cincinnati, the largest in the United States. The possibilities of this lumber it is hard to estimate,—its remarkable size, fine, clean grain and absolute freedom from resinous matter suggest many uses, especially those in which parts are to be fastened by glue, &c. The curled variety is especially esteemed for furniture. Other trees of this family, the *Cucumber-tree* (*Magnolia acuminata*), and the *Umbrella-tree* (*M. umbrellata*), are common in places, especially in the coal regions traversed by the C. & O.

Black Walnut (*Juglans nigra*), can be had in quantity and of various qualities, because it abounds not only in the open lands of the Valley but also in the mountains crossed by the C. & O. R.,—that from the mountains has a soft fibre and dark color, while that from the Valley is harder and lighter in color. The *White-walnut* (*J. cinerea*), of good size, is also plentiful on the line of the railway. It is needless to enumerate the many uses to which these valuable woods are adapted. Their cheapness here shows how profitably they could be worked up on the spot.

Hickory,—the *White* (*Carya microcarpa*), the *Shell-bark* or *Shag-bark* (*C. alba*), and the *Pig-nut* (*C. glabra*),—of large size and clear fine growth, suitable for every purpose for which this wood is desirable, abound in this region. It is now taken from here to the New England States and elsewhere for carriage and implement work. The white hickory is especially valuable, on account of its fine grain for ax, hammer and other tool handles, and for spokes, shafts, etc. for carriages.

White pine (*Pinus strobus*), equal in quality to that of Pennsylvania abounds on the Alleghanies, to the west from Staunton, and is delivered here, from the mills on the Chesapeake & Ohio, but 100 miles distance, in any desired quantity and at reasonable prices. *Yellow pine* (*P. mitis*), sometimes called sap pine, a close-grained moderately resinous timber, can be had in considerable quantities from portions of the Valley, and in large quantities from Midland Virginia to the eastward where crossed by the C. & O. This is largely used for building purposes, fences, &c., and furnishes a cheap lumber. This is the Virginia yellow pine. *Black spruce* (*Abies nigra*), of su-

perior size and quality, abounds in the Apalachians, but it has not as yet become an article of trade. *Hemlock* (*A. canadensis*), occurs sometimes of a large size, but it is not abundant, and the same is true of the *Balsam-fir* (*A. balsamea*). *Red cedar* (*Juniperus virginiana*), so valuable as a light and durable wood, is quite plentiful throughout the Valley, especially on limestone lands near water-courses, where it is much used for fencing posts. *Common juniper* (*J. communis*), and *Arbor vitae* (*Thuja occidentalis*), occur in places, sometimes abundantly, especially the latter along with cedar, a wood which it resembles in softness, lightness and durability. *Sycamore* (*Platanus occidentalis*), the button-wood or plane-tree of the North, is found both in the Valley and Appalachia, but in the coal region on the Kanawha, on the line of the C. & O., it is a very abundant and most valuable timber tree, growing to a large size, tall, straight, fine-grained and sound, adapting it, most admirably, to the manufacture of tobacco and cigar boxes, for which it is in demand. *Beech* the Common (*Fagus sylvatica*), and the Red (*F. ferruginea*), of an exceptionally large size and fine quality, abound in all the Apalachian and Trans-Apalachian portions of Virginia and West Virginia: the line of the C. & O. can furnish these in any quantity.

Chestnut (*Castanea vesca*), of good size and quality, is abundant on all the ridges of the Valley and on the mountains; it is now used only for fencing but could readily be had for other purposes.

Ash, white (*Fraxinus americana*), and red (*F. pubescens*; *Locust* (*Robinia pseudacacia*); *Horn-beam or Iron-wood* (*Ostrya virginica*); *Dogwood* (*Cornus florida*); *Persimmon* (*Diospyros virginiana*); *Wild cherry* (*Cerasus serotina*); *Birch*, black (*Betula lenta*), paper (*B. papyracea*), and white (*B. populifolia*); *Sugar maple* (*Acer saccharinum*), *Red maple* (*A. rubrum*), and *White maple* (*A. dasycarpum*); *Gum*, black or sour (*Nyssa multiflora*), and *Mulberry* (*Morus rubra*), are others of the timber trees that may properly be said to be plentiful in this region.

Sumac, the Staghorn (*Rhus typhina*), Smooth (*R. glabra*), and Dwarf (*R. copallina*), grow in great plenty in this region where the climate is best adapted for developing the tannin that makes these shrubs so valuable for tanning and dying purposes. Virginia has taken the lead in the manufacture of ground sumac, and its leading establishment is in the Valley, at Winchester, where one mill grinds about 1,000 tons a year, from leaves gathered mainly in the adjacent country, producing

an article that has won a high reputation in foreign markets, to which it is sent direct, and where it ranks with the best, yielding 27 per cent. of tannin. Staunton offers very great facilities for the establishment of factories to supply still further the large demand there is for Virginia ground sumac. Quercitron manufacture, the grinding of oak bark to a powder, for the same uses, is generally conducted in the same establishments: there is every advantage here for obtaining supplies of the best of bark for this article from the adjacent mountains.

Tanneries, using these best of materials, are now in successful operation in the Valley, and there is here an ample field for enterprise in this direction,—hides can be bought here cheaply from both east and west, and this mild climate is highly favorable for the conduct of this business.

The prices of lumber, per 1,000 ft. delivered at Staunton; are given in the following table. All the kinds that have been enumerated have a proportionate value.

October, 1878	Common to good.	Select.	Clear.
White pine	\$12.50	\$15. to 20.00	\$25. to 30.00
Yellow or sap pine.	10 to 12.50	15 to 17.50	18.00
Yellow and white tulip-poplar	12.50	17.50	25.00
Black walnut	25.00	30.00	40.00
Hickory	15.00	20.00	25.00
White oak.	10 to 12.50	15.00	18.00
Chestnut	15.00	20.00	25.00
Ash	12.50	17.50	25.00
Laths per 1,000 { White pine	2.50		
{ Sap pine	2.00		
Shingles, per 1,000, white pine	3.50 to 4.00		

The Staunton Wagon Factory furnishes an illustration of what can be done here in the way of manufacturing: starting on a small capital, not long since, with a capacity for producing two wagons daily, employing from 25 to 30 hands, paying, for a day of 10 hours, wheel-wrights from \$1.50 to \$2.50, blacksmiths \$1.50 to \$2.00, helpers \$1.00, and painters from \$1.50 to \$2.00, it finds that it can sell, at a handsome profit, 2-horse wagons the *light* at \$75., *medium* at \$80., and *heavy* at \$85.; 3-horse *medium* at \$90. and 4-horse *medium* at \$100; 1-horse spring-wagons at \$70. and 2-horse at \$100. There is hardly a limit to the amount of capital that could be profitably employed and of business that could be done here in the manufacture of farm and spring-wagons, buggies, carriages, carts, wheel-barrows, and agricultural implements, for millions of dollars are spent annually within a radius of 300 miles from this railway

centre for these articles, that are brought from 500 to 1,500 miles, from regions where every item, it may safely be asserted, that enters into their construction costs more than it does here. In Massachusetts, where nearly every item would cost from 50 to 100 per cent. more, \$4,500,000 worth of wagons and carriages were made in 1875, with an invested capital of \$2,500,000 (Hough's U. S. Report on Forestry, 1877); at that time, taking the Albany, N. Y. rates for lumber, which would be too low if anything, the cost of clear pine was \$42. to \$45., hickory and oak \$38. to \$40., tulip-poplar \$35. to \$65., etc., prices that may with profit be compared with those of Staunton above given. The same might be said of many points in the Northwest, from which vast numbers of these articles are sent in this direction, the mere freight on which would be a good profit to the manufacturer doing business here.

The rates for freight from Staunton to some of the important cities and markets are given below. Special contracts can always be made for car loads or large quantities at much lower rates than those given. All the Atlantic ports have cheap rates, by water, to and from Richmond and Baltimore and the lines of railway from Staunton to those cities give it the advantages of competitive rates.

From Staunton to	Rates per 100 lbs., in cts, by classes.				
	First.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	Fifth
Richmond.	50	44	35	25	16
Norfolk	62	53	44	34	25
Baltimore	58	50	40	29	..
Philadelphia	75	68	59	42	..
New York	85	78	68	52	..
Boston	100	90	75	57	..
Cincinnati.	83	70	55	38	25

For the cheap manufacture of iron and steel and all articles made from these, in whole or in part, Staunton and its vicinity can challenge comparison with any portion of the United States that is accessible to markets; for it lies in the midst of vast beds of *iron ores*, of several varieties, that are superior in quality, practically inexhaustible in quantity, so situated that they can be mined and delivered cheaply; *fuel* of the purest character for all metallurgical operations and remarkable for its heating power, economy in working, and the cheapness with which it can be mined and delivered here, and equal in quantity to any demand, can be had from the 100 miles of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway that west of Staunton passes through the Lower and the Middle Measures of the Great Kan-

awha Coal-field; *labor*, of the most reliable character for such work, is abundant and cheap; the *climate* is well adapted not only to successful but to continuous work. In proof of these conclusions the following statements are submitted.

Iron ores.—(1.) *The Metamorphic or Primary ores* are reached at the Blue Ridge, 14 miles from Staunton, where a continuous stratum of over 40 per cent. specular ore, from 6 to 10 feet in thickness, is cut by the line of the C. & O.; thence, for 100 miles to the eastward, that railway crosses nearly at right-angles, bed after bed of magnetite, limonite and the other ores of iron peculiar to the Archaean rocks,—the specular ores at Blue Ridge station can be mined and put on the cars at 50 cents a ton. (2.) *The Primordial or Cambrian ores* succeed the last, bedded away in the rocks, (Rogers' Formation No. 1), on the western slope of the Blue Ridge, some two miles nearer to Staunton; these ores, in this region, are remarkable for the vast thickness of their beds, proven in places to be over 70 feet, for making a superior neutral iron, for the adaptation of some of them in their natural conditions to the manufacture of Bessemer steel, and for the very large deposits of the very best of *Manganese ores* associated with them. The ore for a ton of iron from these deposits is furnished to the Shenandoah Iron-works, in the adjacent county, at this time for \$3.50. Hon. Wm. Milnes, Jr., the operator of these works, gives \$16. as the present cost of making a ton of hot-blast iron there, made up of these items; 2.1 tons of ore \$3.50; 110 bushels of charcoal \$5.50; 450 to 500 lbs. of limestone \$0.18; making cost of raw materials \$9.18; labor, wear, interest and hauling 5 miles to forge \$6.82. He pays miners 70 to 75 cents a day, common laborers 70 cents; furnace-men, for a month of 30 days, are paid, managers \$50., foundry-men (keeper and molder) \$40., keepers and fillers \$27, and common laborers 70 cents a day. Mr. Milnes estimates that as soon as a railway reaches his works he can place pig iron in Baltimore for \$13. per ton, i. e., 2.1 tons ore \$3.50; 1 ton New-Kanawha, C. & O., coke \$5., limestone 18 cts.; making cost of raw materials \$8.68; add, for labor, incidentals, etc., \$2.07, making cost at furnace \$10.75, freight to Baltimore \$2.25. This may be accepted as a strictly fair estimate of the cost of making iron from these ores at and near Staunton. (3.) *The Trenton Limestone or Lower Silurian iron-ores* abound in the Valley, extensive beds of these have been opened and mined at Fishersville, only 6 miles from Staunton, on the railway, and with these are beds of the best of limestone, but the latter is in inexhaustible quantities along the C.

& O. (4.) *The Upper Silurian ores*, those of the Medina, No. IV. and Clinton No. V. are found in stratified beds of great thickness in the Appalachian ranges that border the Valley on the west; the region of these is penetrated by the C. & O. 12 miles from Staunton and for more than 60 miles that railway traverses an iron belt that is, beyond question, one of the richest in the country in the quantity and general good quality of its brown hematite and red-shale ores, and nowhere can these be more cheaply mined and placed upon the cars. From Ferrol, 16 miles west of Staunton, they are shipping large quantities of ore to Dunbar Furnace, western Pennsylvania, 340 miles, by rail, and these ores, 2.1 tons of which will make a ton of strictly good iron, are delivered on the cars at Ferrol for \$1.50 per ton. These excellent ores that give entire satisfaction at Dunbar, yield, from the experience of the region, 47 per cent. of iron; they can be delivered in Staunton, in any required quantity, at from \$2. to \$2.50 per ton, and New River Coke, which contains 93.00 carbon, 6.73 ash and 0.27 sulphur in 100 parts, a ton of which makes regularly, at Longdale, in this iron belt, a ton of iron, can be had at \$4. per ton,—the Kanawha splint coal, highly esteemed for iron smelting can be had at \$3.50, and its slack, used for steam purposes at \$2.50 per ton. A gentleman familiar with all the conditions of this region estimates the cost of production of a ton of pig iron at the best localities in this belt as \$8.55, i. e. 2 tons of ore, without royalty, \$2., limestone 30 cts., coke \$3.75, labor, etc., \$2.50, or, adding a royalty of 50 cts., \$9.05 per ton. Want of space forbids the introduction of analyses of materials, but they will be furnished in detail to any one desiring such information. Mr. W. M. Bowron, F. C. S., estimates (June, 1878) that the cost of construction of a 50 to 75 ton furnace at Staunton will be \$86,130, and that such a furnace can make iron here at a cost of \$12.10 per ton, which it can place on the Ohio, including all charges, for \$16.

Among other abundant mineral resources of Augusta, that, in connection with an abundance of pure and cheap fuel, suggest the establishment here of large and profitable industries, may be mentioned, vast beds of *pure sand*, from the Primordial rocks, along the eastern foot of the Blue Ridge, large mines of *manganese* in the same region, and unlimited supplies of limestone from which the *purest lime* can be made, all pronounced the best of their kind for *glass-making*, (the lime from this Valley is now taken to the most distant plate-glass works in the Union); *limestone* both *common* and *hydraulic* for *lime-*

burning and cement-making to supply the wants of large sections eastward that have no limestone,—kaolin, fire-plastic and brick-clays, in ample beds, for the manufacture of Rockingham stone and terra-cotta wares, drain and sewage pipes, fire-bricks, etc., for which even the local demand is large;—ores and ochres, of various kinds, suitable for the making of paints; marbles, especially encrinal and fancy ones, that can be delivered here in any quantity at from \$1.50 to \$2. per cubic foot, for cutting into forms for furniture and ornaments; slates well adapted to marbleizing, or for cutting into architectural forms, abundant and near at hand;—aluminous shales and slates for the manufacture of alum, etc. In the Valley and the Blue Ridge adjacent are found, in the greatest abundance, copper, zinc and lead ores of several varieties, barytes, &c.

The annexed view of "*Steephill*" gives an idea of the character



Steephill.

of the surroundings of Staunton: this is the charming suburban residence of Col. J. Lewis Peyton, who was sent as Confederate States agent to England in 1861, where he remained for ten years after the late

war, and became the author of numerous works, published there, among them "The American Crisis," "Over the Alleghanies and Across the Prairies." No city can offer more picturesque and delightful sites for suburban homes, in an all-the-year-round agreeable climate, than Staunton.

We are under obligations to Messrs. R. Mauzy & Co., printers, for the excellent workmanship shown in the publication of a large edition of this pamphlet, and to Messrs. G. R. Frith, artist, Edmund Berkeley, photographer, and A. Y. Lee, architect, of Staunton, and Julius Bien, photo-lithographer, of New York, for the accompanying illustrations.

We are satisfied that Staunton is to become one of the great iron-works centres of the country, the seat of blast-furnaces, rolling-mills, machine-shops, stove-works, nail-mills, etc., etc., *because the products of such establishments, all things considered, can be made more cheaply here than at any point in the country outside of this region.* Iron men, elsewhere, concur in this view. The Hon. Heister Clymer, M. C., of Reading, Pa., the Representative of one of the leading iron producing districts in the Union, in a letter to the great house of McCalmont Bros. & Co. of London, Eng., says, in speaking of this region,—“The great seat of the manufacture of pig iron must be transferred from the Lehigh and Schuylkill districts in our state to that portion of the state of Virginia, since pig iron can there be made at a rate so low that it will be impossible for us to compete with them. * *Cheap iron* is the necessity of the age, and we cannot produce it in this state. In Virginia where the ore deposits are regular, of enormous extent and great richness, and where the limestone and coal are in proximity, and where the product can be shipped cheaply either to the seaboard or the Great West, must be the place where in a few years pig iron must be made most largely and successfully.”

Letters of Endorsement.

From Hon. A. H. H. Stuart, formerly Member of Congress and Secretary of the Interior in President Fillmore's Cabinet,—now Member of the Board of Trustees of the Peabody Education Fund, &c., &c.

MAJOR JED. HOTCHKISS,

DEAR SIR:—I have read, with much pleasure, your pamphlet giving an exposition of the advantages which Staunton presents to persons seeking a pleasant and healthful place of residence, and also to those who may desire to engage in business pursuits. Being a native of Staunton, and having spent my whole life (except when absent in public service), within its limits, I feel competent to speak of the matters of which you treat. I believe your statements in regard to the climate, of Staunton and the many advantages which it possesses in social, educational and business aspects to be strictly true. I know of no place in which people enjoy better health and attain greater age. It is admirably watered, and from its topography the surface drainage is excellent. The greater portion of the town is situated on hills, the soil of which is clay, and the comparatively level sections have a porous, marly soil with a gentle inclination southward, to the rapid stream which flows through the town. Every shower of rain therefore tends to cleanse the town from all impurities which might otherwise accumulate,—Staunton is thus rendered entirely exempt from all malarious diseases.

In my boyhood Staunton was a village of about 1,500 inhabitants. In 1838, in consequence of the construction of various roads, radiating from the town in all directions, it began to increase in population, business and wealth, and has now become one of the most active and thriving towns in Virginia. The facts to which you advert in your pamphlet, of its location in the heart

of the Shenandoah Valley, at the point of intersection of the Chesapeake & Ohio and Valley Railroads, in a region abounding in iron and timber, in the centre of a fertile agricultural and grazing country, where provisions are cheap, and fruits and vegetables of all kinds are successfully cultivated, seem to give an assurance of its steady growth and prosperity.

I have travelled a great deal through the best sections of our country, north, south and west, and while I have seen localities which, in some particulars, surpassed the county of Augusta, yet I have found none which possessed such a combination of advantages in regard to soil, climate, water, health, adaptation to grass, cereals and fruits, and facilities for social intercourse. I therefore think that General Washington was correct when he characterized the Valley of Virginia as the garden of our continent.

Respectfully, Yours, &c.,

ALEX. H. H. STUART.

From Rev. Barnas Sears, D. D., formerly President of Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island, now General Agent of the Peabody Education Fund.

Probably no man in the State is so well qualified to give accurate information about the City of Staunton and the Valley of Virginia, as Major Jed. Hotchkiss. So far as I am able to judge, from a cursory perusal of his pamphlet, I regard it as a true presentation of the subjects named in its title.

I have been a resident of Staunton eleven years, having come here for the benefit of the climate, and have found it in a remarkable degree healthy, from its dry mountain air.

STAUNTON, VA., Nov. 20, 1878.

B. SEARS.

From Gen. John Echols, President of the Valley National Bank, Staunton, and Member of the Legislature of Virginia.

STAUNTON, VA., Nov. 20, 1868.

MAJ. JED. HOTCHKISS, Consulting Engineer, &c.,

MY DEAR SIR:—I have read with much pleasure the proof sheets of your pamphlet descriptive of the City of Staunton and the surrounding country. It presents fairly, and without any undue coloring, the advantages of settlement in this region, and will, I am sure, furnish information, both very valuable and much desired, to those persons looking out for new locations.

I am, very truly,

JOHN ECHOLS.

From Col. J. Lewis Peyton.

STEEPHILL, NOV. 20th, 1878.

I have examined with some care Major Hotchkiss' pamphlet on Staunton, and have derived both pleasure and instruction from the task.

The accuracy of the statements, the brevity and clearness of the descriptions and the apposite quotations from and reference to authorities continually excite and gratify the curiosity of the reader. It would be difficult to collect within the same limits so much exact, useful and well chosen matter as is contained in this little treatise.

The work is embellished with some beautiful engravings, conveying at a glance by the eye, that which no words could by the ear, to the understanding. The idea of the illustrations is a happy one well applied.

The entire execution is characterized by neatness and precision. The letter press is beautiful and the typography altogether inviting to the eye. It does much credit to the Staunton printers. I heartily recommend it as a reliable guide to my English friends and the British public.

J. LEWIS PEYTON.



